

Ganesha

The Compassionate God



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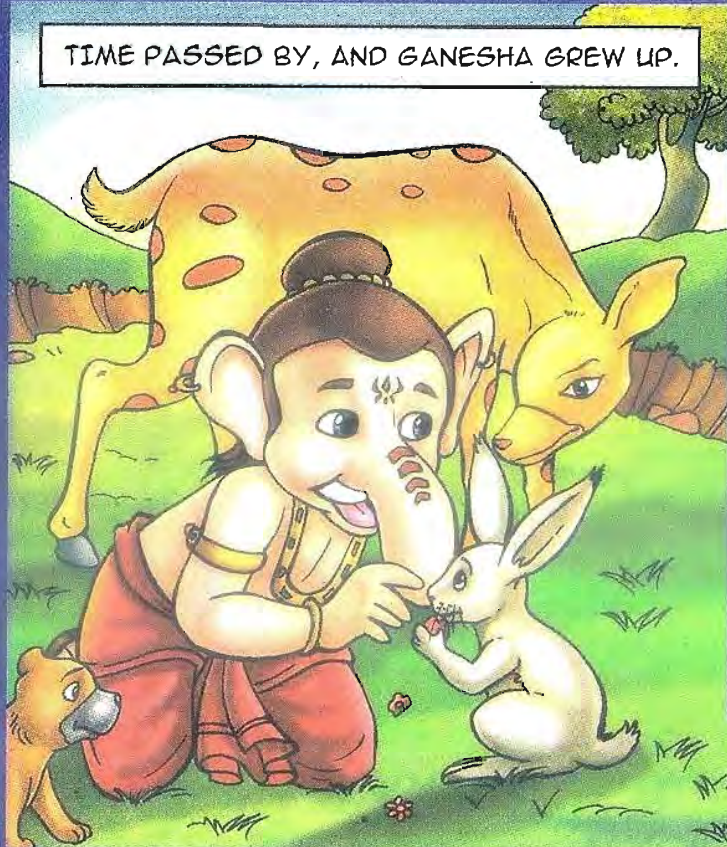
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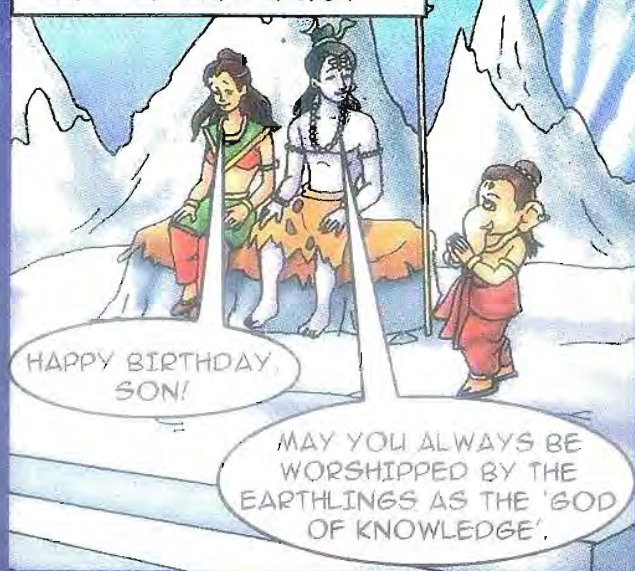
THIS IS THE STORY OF GANESHA WHOSE LIFE IS FULL OF INTRIGUING INCIDENTS.



TIME PASSED BY, AND GANESHA GREW UP.



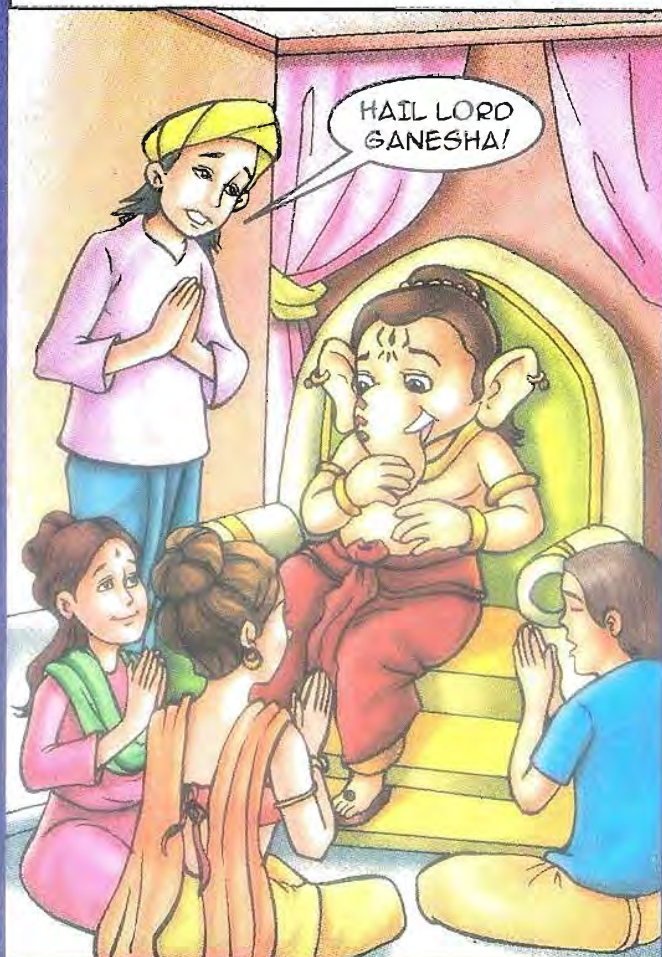
ONE DAY, IT WAS GANESHA'S BIRTHDAY, WHICH IS CELEBRATED AS 'GANESHA CHATURTHI'.



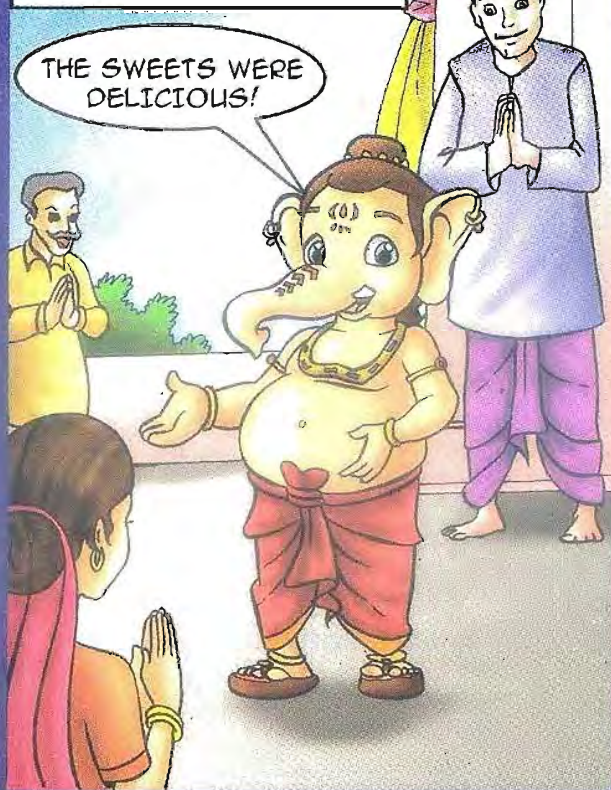
THAT DAY, GANESHA WENT TO MANY OF HIS DEVOTEES' HOUSES AND WAS OFFERED HIS FAVORITE FOOD-SWEETS!



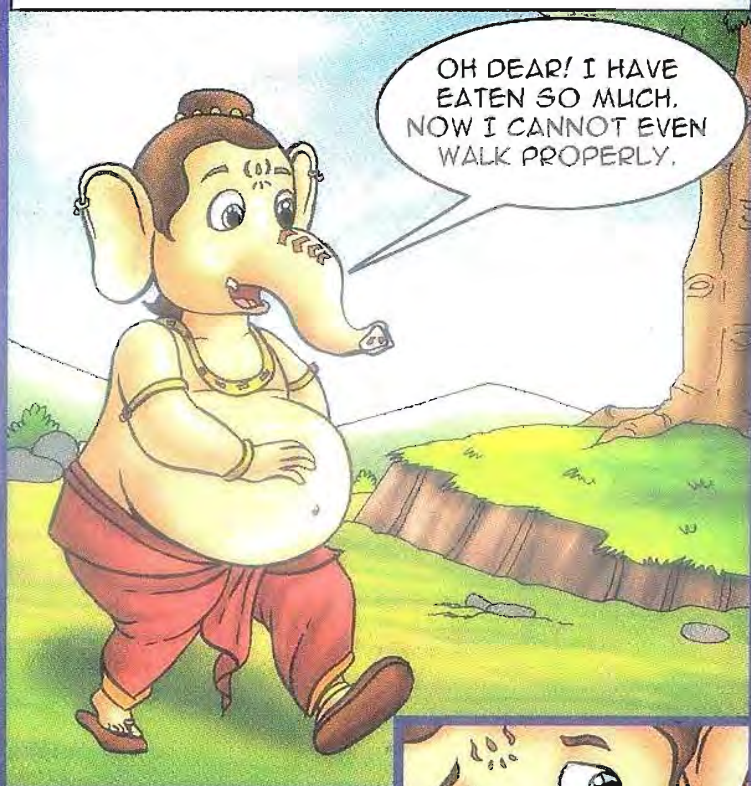
HE VISITED THE HOUSES OF HIS DEVOTEES, ONE AFTER ANOTHER, WHERE HE CONSUMED A LOT OF SWEETS WHICH WERE OFFERED TO HIM.



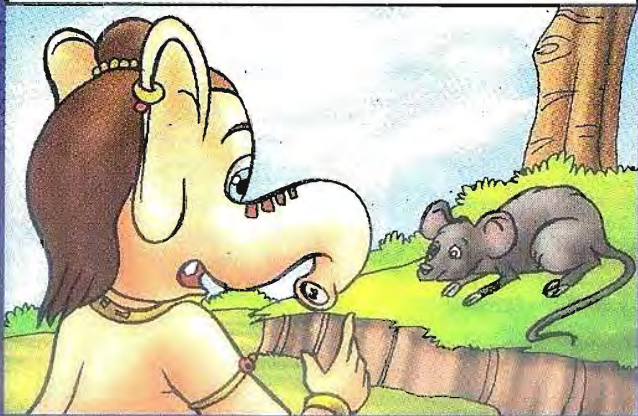
FINALLY, HIS URGE FOR SWEETS WAS SATISFIED.



BUT AS A RESULT OF THIS OVERINDULGENCE, HE FELT RATHER UNCOMFORTABLE.



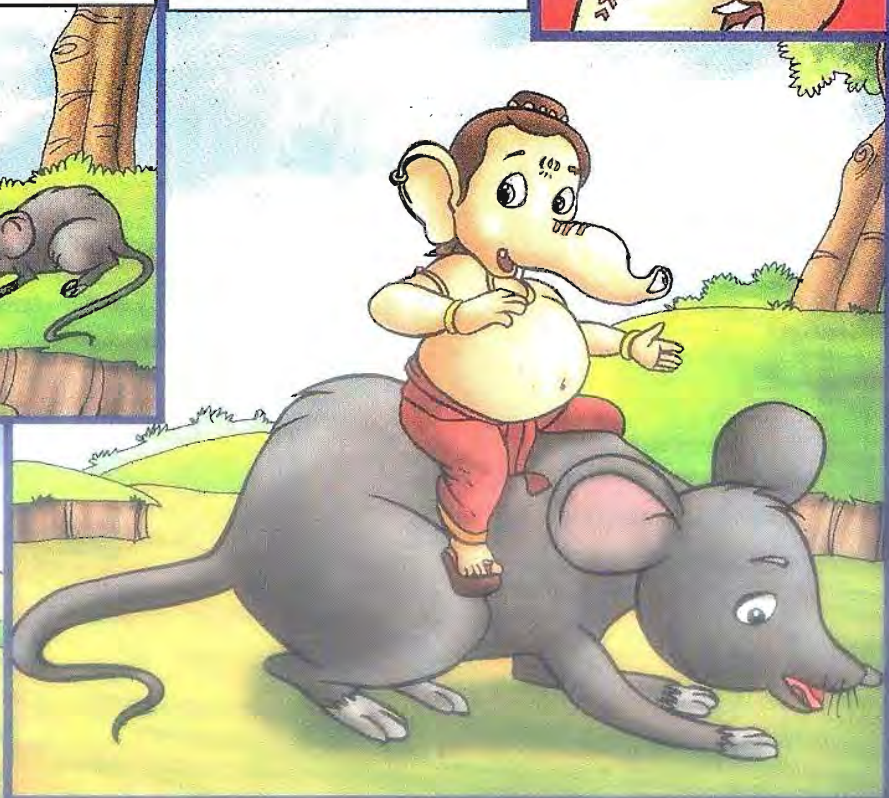
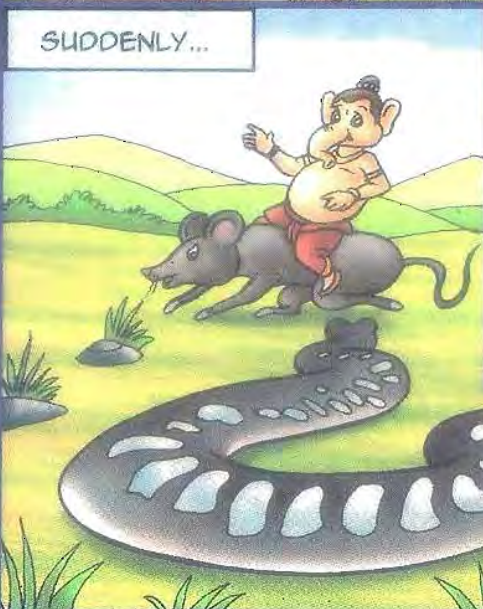
WEARILY, HE CAME TO HIS COMPANION, THE MOUSE.



HE SAT ON IT AND STARTED FOR HOME.

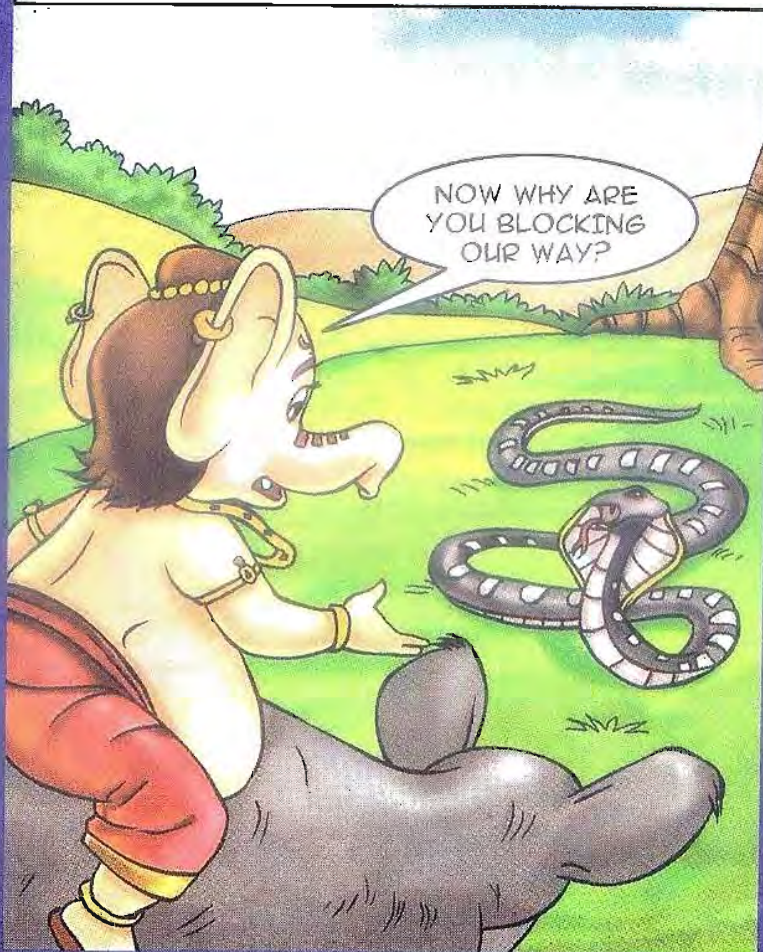


SUDDENLY...

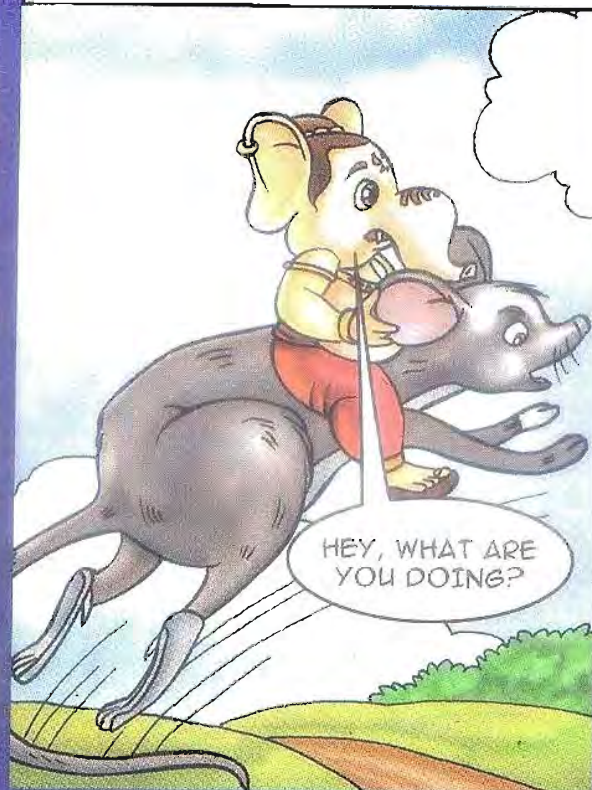


A BIG, BLACK SNAKE CAME IN HIS WAY.

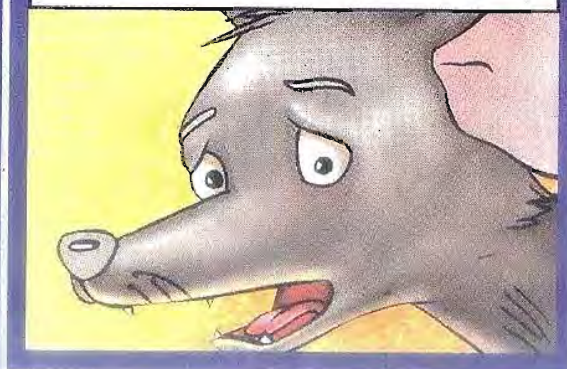
SOON, THE SNAKE BLOCKED THEIR WAY AND...



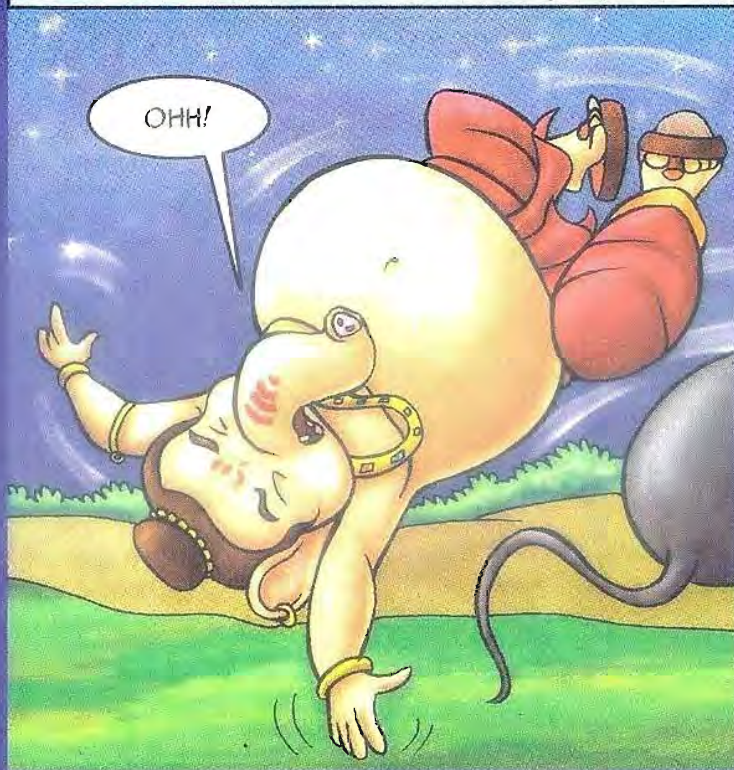
BUT BEFORE GANESHA COULD DO ANYTHING, THE MOUSE JUMPED BACKWARDS!



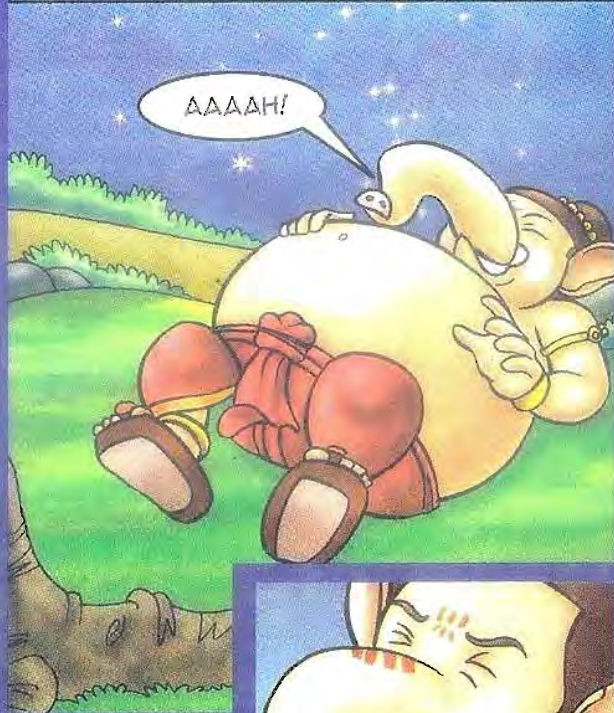
THE MOUSE WAS TERRIFIED!



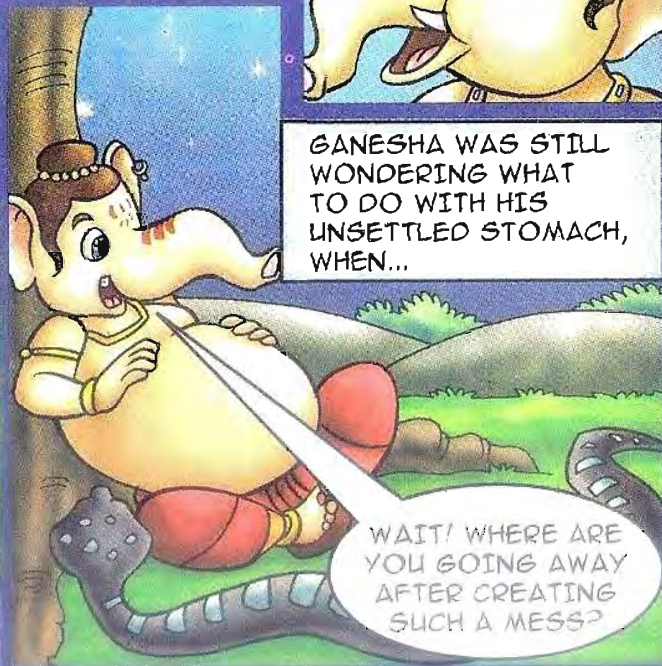
BUT THE MOUSE WAS DETERMINED TO RUN AWAY. AND SOON...



THE MOMENT GANESHA FELL DOWN ON THE GROUND, HIS HUGE STOMACH, WHICH WAS STUFFED WITH SWEETS, GOT UNSETTLED!



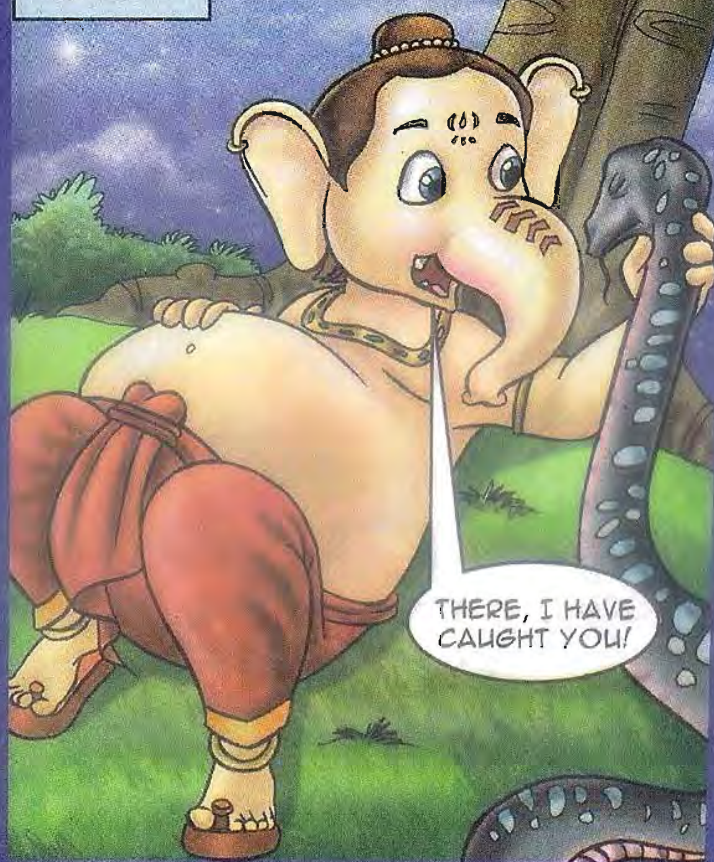
HE TRIED HARD TO GET UP.



AND SO...



FINALLY...



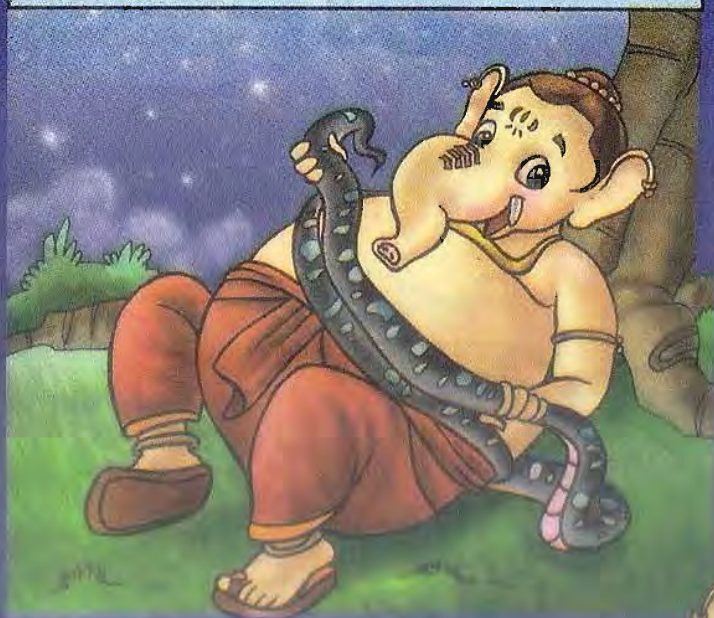
THERE, I HAVE CAUGHT YOU!

I WILL TIE YOU AROUND MY BELLY. THIS IS YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR MAKING ME TUMBLE DOWN.



NOW, ALL THIS WAS WITNESSED BY THE MOON, WHICH WAS SHINING BRIGHT IN THE NIGHT SKY.

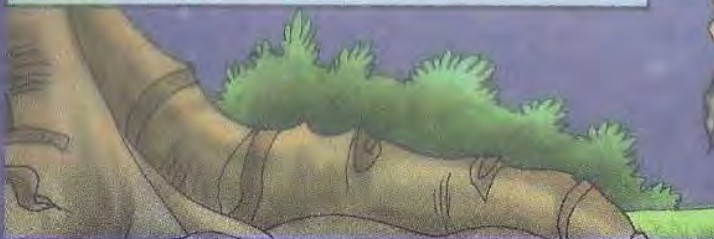
AND SO, GANESHA TIED THE SNAKE AROUND HIS STOMACH TO SETTLE IT BETTER.



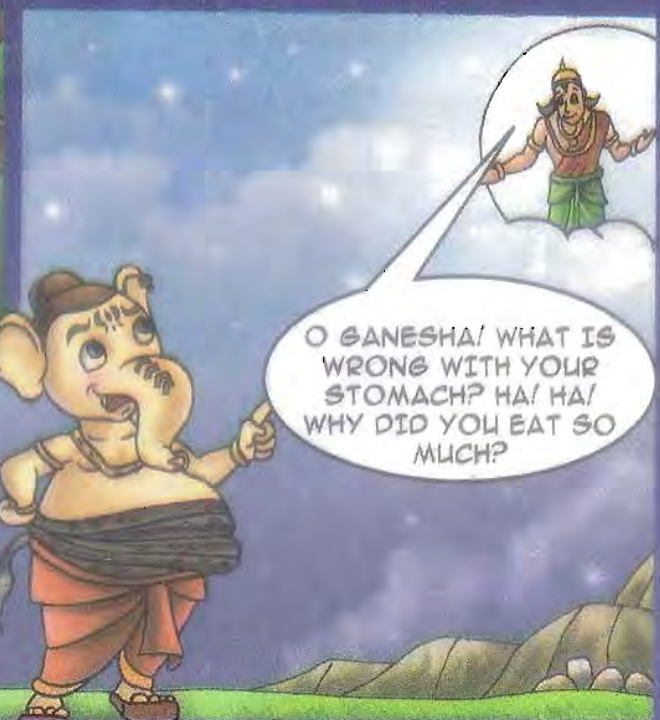
I WONDER WHAT IS HAPPENING?



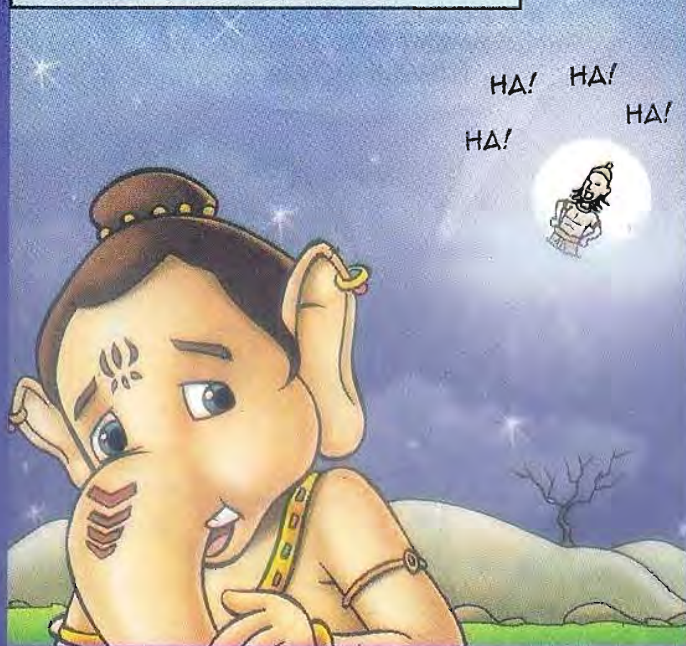
OBSERVING THE MISERABLE PLIGHT OF GANESHA, HE COULD NOT CONTROL HIS LAUGHTER.



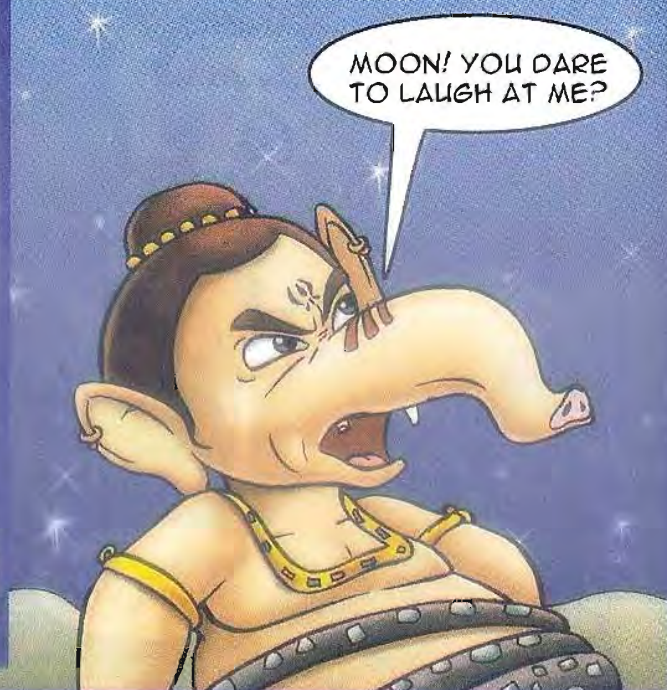
O GANESHA! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR STOMACH? HA! HA! WHY DID YOU EAT SO MUCH?



AT FIRST, GANESHA WAS A
LITTLE EMBARRASSED.



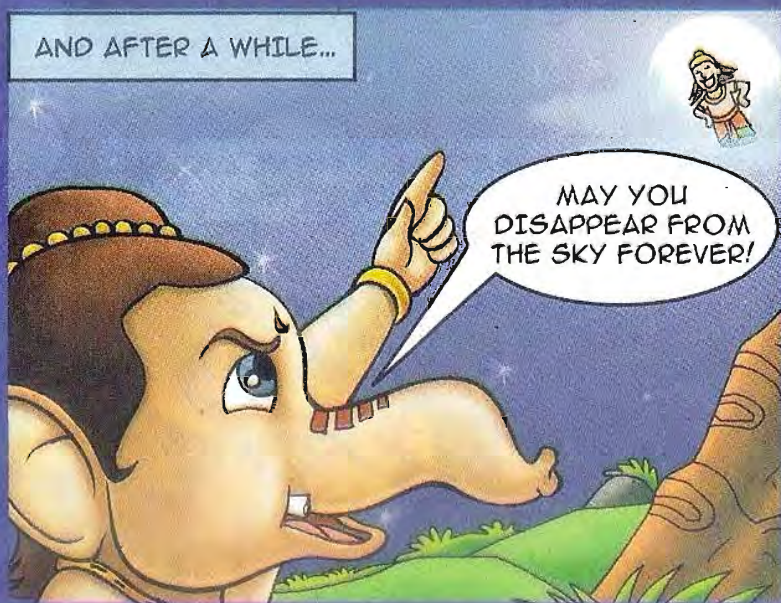
THEN HE BECAME ANGRY.



BUT, THE MOON DID NOT STOP
LAUGHING. GANESHA GREW ANGRIER.



AND AFTER A WHILE...



THAT VERY MOMENT, THE MOON
DISAPPEARED FROM THE NIGHT
SKY. DARKNESS SPREAD ALL
AROUND.



BUT THE ABSENCE OF THE MOON MADE THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH VERY UNHAPPY.

MEANWHILE, THE GODS WERE ALSO GRIEVED BY THE MOON'S TRUANCY.

WONDER WHY THE MOON IS NOT THERE IN THE SKY TODAY !

YES, YOU ARE RIGHT! THE NIGHT IS SO DULL AND DREARY.

ISN'T IT A PITY THAT GANESHA HAS CURSED THE MOON AND MADE IT DISAPPEAR?

YES, THE NIGHTS ARE SO GLOOMY!

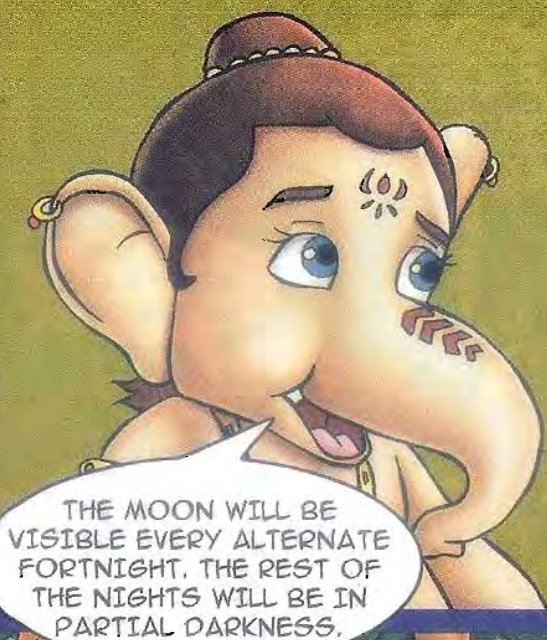
AFTER A LOT OF CONSULTATION, THE GODS DECIDED TO REQUEST GANESHA TO TAKE BACK HIS CURSE.

GANESHA, MY SON, WE HAVE COME TO MAKE A REQUEST.

PLEASE TAKE BACK YOUR CURSE ON THE MOON, AS THE NIGHTS HAVE BECOME VERY DARK.

ALRIGHT, SINCE I CANNOT TAKE BACK MY CURSE, I WILL ALTER IT.

AND SO, GANESHA MODIFIED HIS CURSE A LITTLE.



THE MOON WILL BE VISIBLE EVERY ALTERNATE FORTNIGHT. THE REST OF THE NIGHTS WILL BE IN PARTIAL DARKNESS.



ONCE EVERY MONTH THE MOON WILL BE COMPLETELY INVISIBLE.



THE GODS WERE SATISFIED, AND SO THEY RETREATED TO HEAVEN.

AS PROMISED BY GANESHA, THE MOON WAS VISIBLE ONCE AGAIN, MUCH TO EVERYONE'S HAPPINESS.

THE REAPPEARANCE OF THE MOON WAS A PLEASANT SURPRISE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH TOO.



IN THOSE DAYS, THERE EXISTED A FIERCE DEMON CALLED RAVANA. HE WAS THE KING OF LANKA AND AN ARDENT DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA.

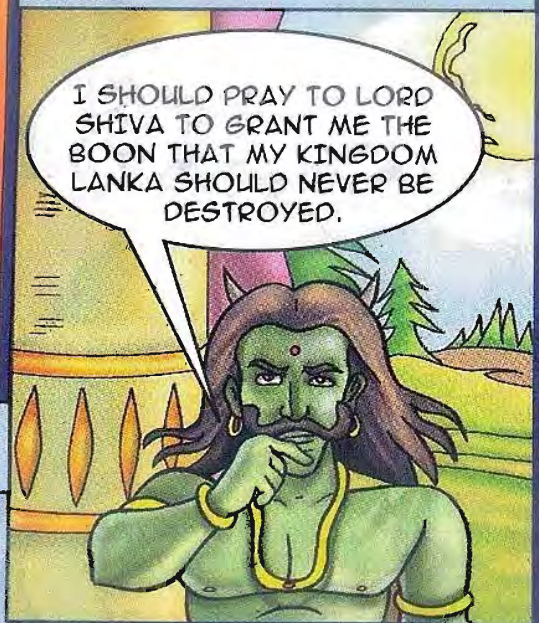


RAVANA WAS AN ARDENT WORSHIPPER OF LORD SHIVA.



SO, HE STARTED FOR KAILASH, LORD SHIVA'S ABODE ON THE SNOWY HIMALAYAS TO MEDITATE.

ONE DAY, RAVANA DECIDED TO ASK FOR A BOON FROM LORD SHIVA TO PROTECT HIS KINGDOM, LANKA.



ON REACHING KAILASH...



AND SO, RAVANA BEGAN TO MEDITATE.



AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF MEDITATION, LORD SHIVA WAS FINALLY PLEASED. AND...



THOUGH LORD SHIVA BLESSED LANKA, HE ALSO PUT FORWARD A CONDITION.

YOUR KINGDOM WILL BE UNCONQUERABLE. BUT FOR THAT, YOU HAVE TO PLACE MY IMAGE THERE.

I SHALL GIVE YOU THE IMAGE.

BUT, BEWARE. DO NOT PUT DOWN THE IMAGE ANYWHERE BEFORE YOU REACH LANKA.

IF YOU DO, I WILL NOT MOVE FROM THAT PARTICULAR PLACE.

SAYING THIS, LORD SHIVA GAVE A STONE IMAGE TO RAVANA.

I WILL REMEMBER YOUR CAUTION, MY LORD.

RAVANA STARTED HIS JOURNEY TOWARDS LANKA ON FOOT WITH THE STONE IMAGE.

MEANWHILE IN HEAVEN, THE GODS WERE WORRIED WITH THE BOON THAT LORD SHIVA HAD GRANTED RAVANA.

IT WILL BE DEVASTATING IF RAVANA SUCCEEDS IN CARRYING THE SHIVA LINGA TO LANKA.

IF LANKA BECOMES INVINCIBLE, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DEFEAT RAVANA FOREVER.

BUT THE GODS DID NOT KNOW WHOM TO ASK FOR HELP. SO, THEY PRAYED TO LORD GANESHA FOR GUIDANCE.

LORD GANESHA,
PLEASE HELP US!

AFTER A WHILE...

WHAT IS THE MATTER?
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO TROUBLED?

LORD, YOU
HAVE COME.

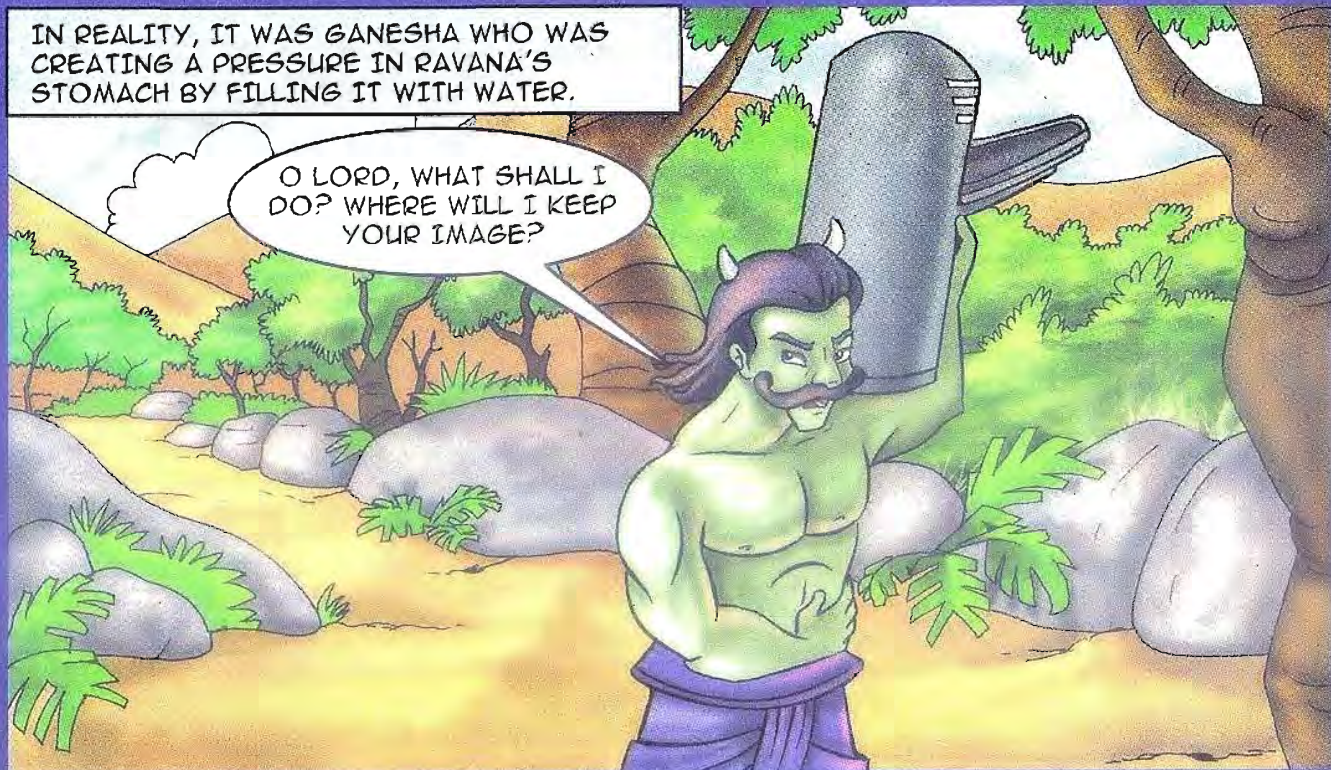


MEANWHILE, RAVANA TRAVELLED FOR MANY DAYS. ONE DAY, WHEN HE WAS PASSING THROUGH A FOREST, HE FELT THAT HE HAD TO ANSWER THE CALL OF NATURE.



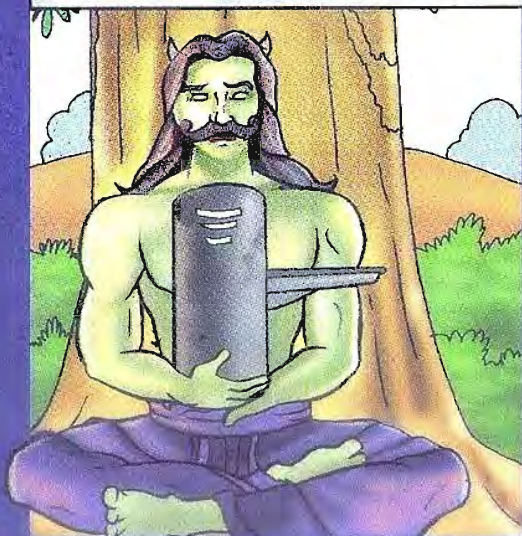
IN REALITY, IT WAS GANESHA WHO WAS CREATING A PRESSURE IN RAVANA'S STOMACH BY FILLING IT WITH WATER.

O LORD, WHAT SHALL I DO? WHERE WILL I KEEP YOUR IMAGE?



RAVANA, WITH A LOT OF EFFORT TRIED TO CONTROL HIS NEED. HE DIVERTED HIS MIND BY THINKING OF HIS KINGDOM. BUT...

LORD, I AM NOT ABLE TO CONTROL MY NEED ANY MORE.



HIS URGENCY INCREASED BECAUSE GANESHA CONSTANTLY FILLED WATER INTO HIS STOMACH.



FINALLY...

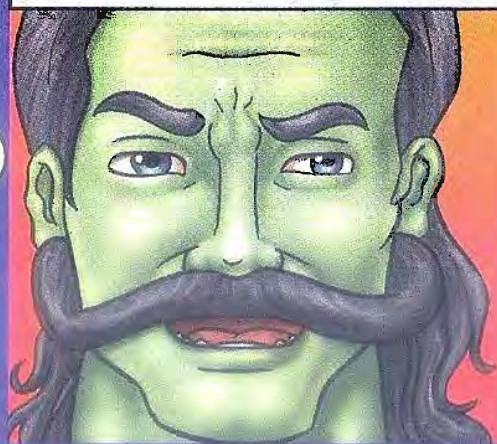
NO. THIS IS BECOMING UNBEARABLE. I MUST DO SOMETHING



HENCE, HE GOT UP AND LOOKED FOR A SUITABLE PLACE TO RELIEVE HIMSELF.

SHALL I PUT
DOWN THE IMAGE
HERE? NO, I
CANNOT DO THAT!

SUDDENLY HE SAW A LITTLE BOY
PASSING BY.



CHILD, CAN YOU HELP ME?
I AM IN TROUBLE!

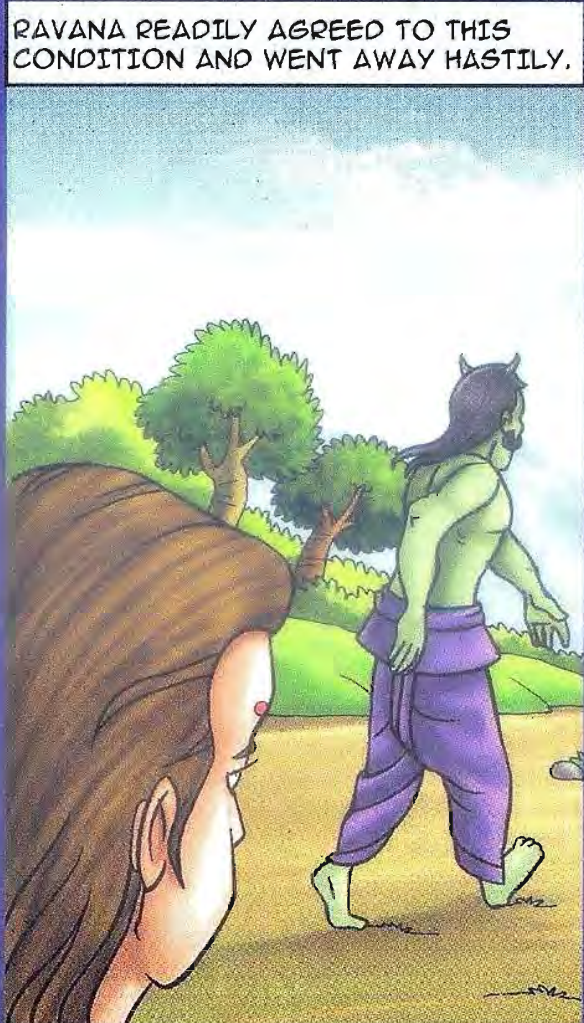
HEARING THIS, THE LITTLE
BOY CAME FORWARD.

WHY DO YOU
CALL ME, O
MIGHTY KING?

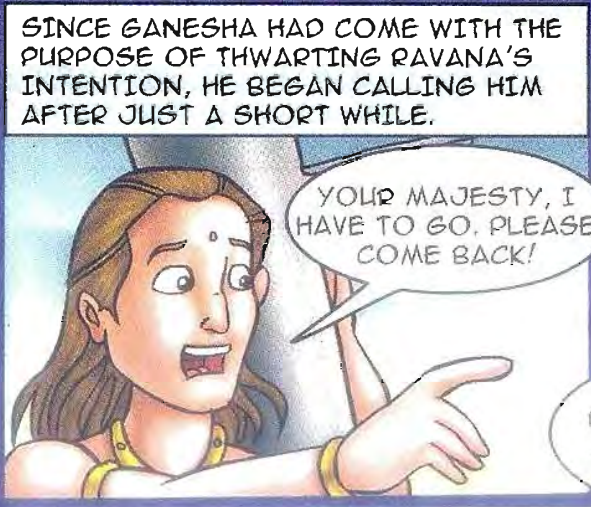




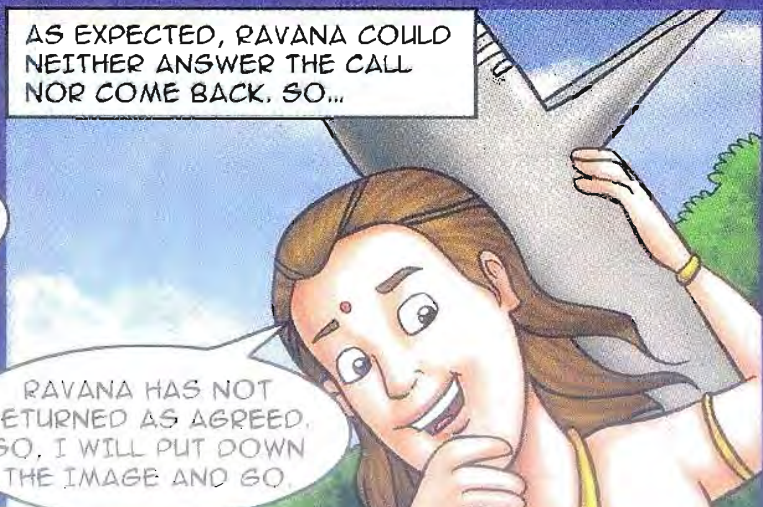
BUT YOUR MAJESTY, THERE IS ONE CONDITION. I WILL NOT HOLD THE IMAGE FOR VERY LONG. YOU MUST COME AT ONCE, WHEN I CALL YOU.



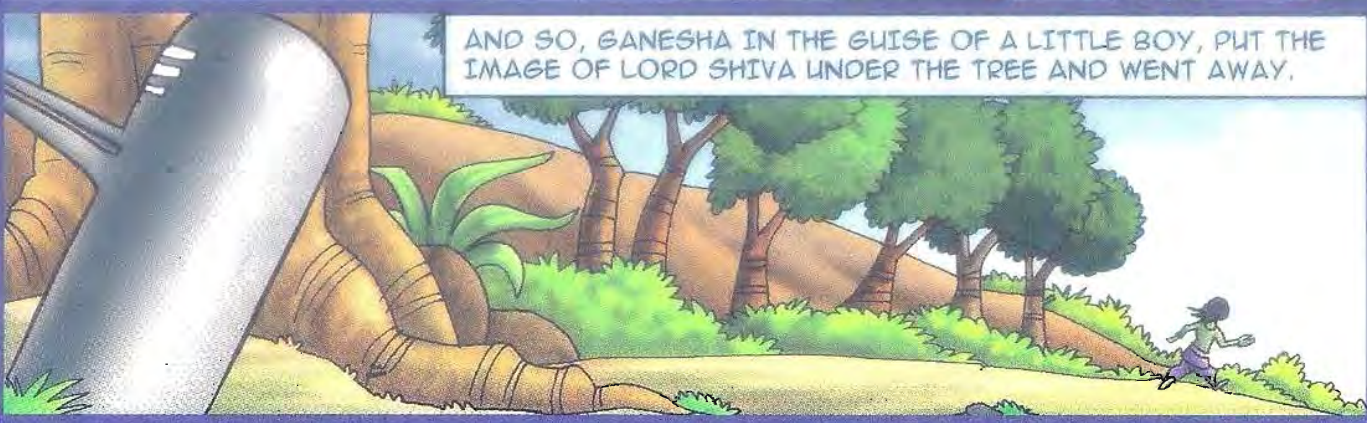
RAVANA READILY AGREED TO THIS CONDITION AND WENT AWAY HASTILY.



YOUR MAJESTY, I HAVE TO GO. PLEASE COME BACK!

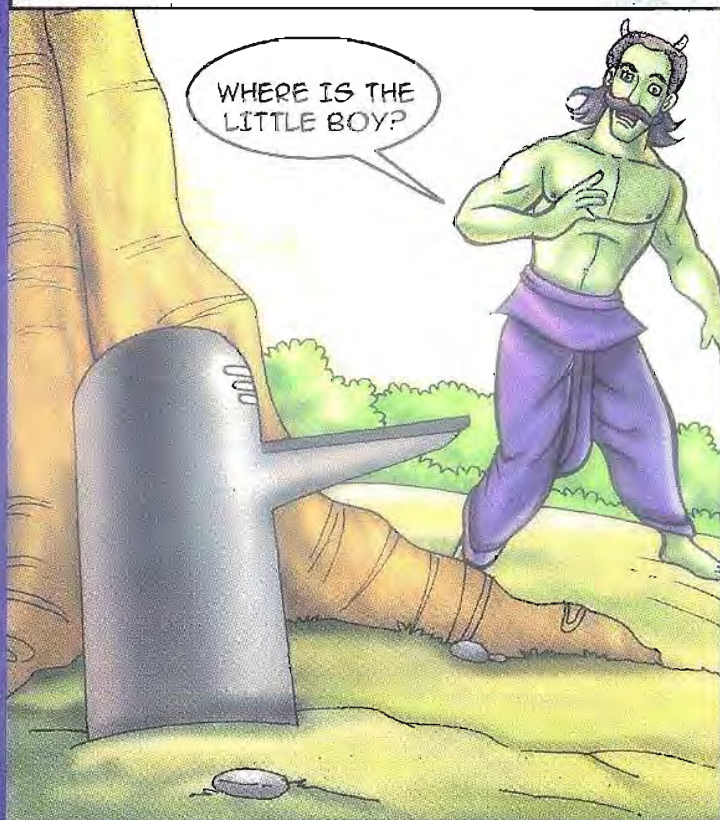


RAVANA HAS NOT RETURNED AS AGREED. SO, I WILL PUT DOWN THE IMAGE AND GO.



AND SO, GANESHA IN THE GUISE OF A LITTLE BOY, PUT THE IMAGE OF LORD SHIVA UNDER THE TREE AND WENT AWAY.

AFTER A WHILE WHEN RAVANA CAME BACK, HE WAS ASTONISHED TO SEE THE IMAGE ON THE GROUND.



LITTLE BOY,
WHERE ARE YOU?



BUT ON RECEIVING NO REPLY, HE REALIZED THAT A TRICK HAD BEEN PLAYED ON HIM.



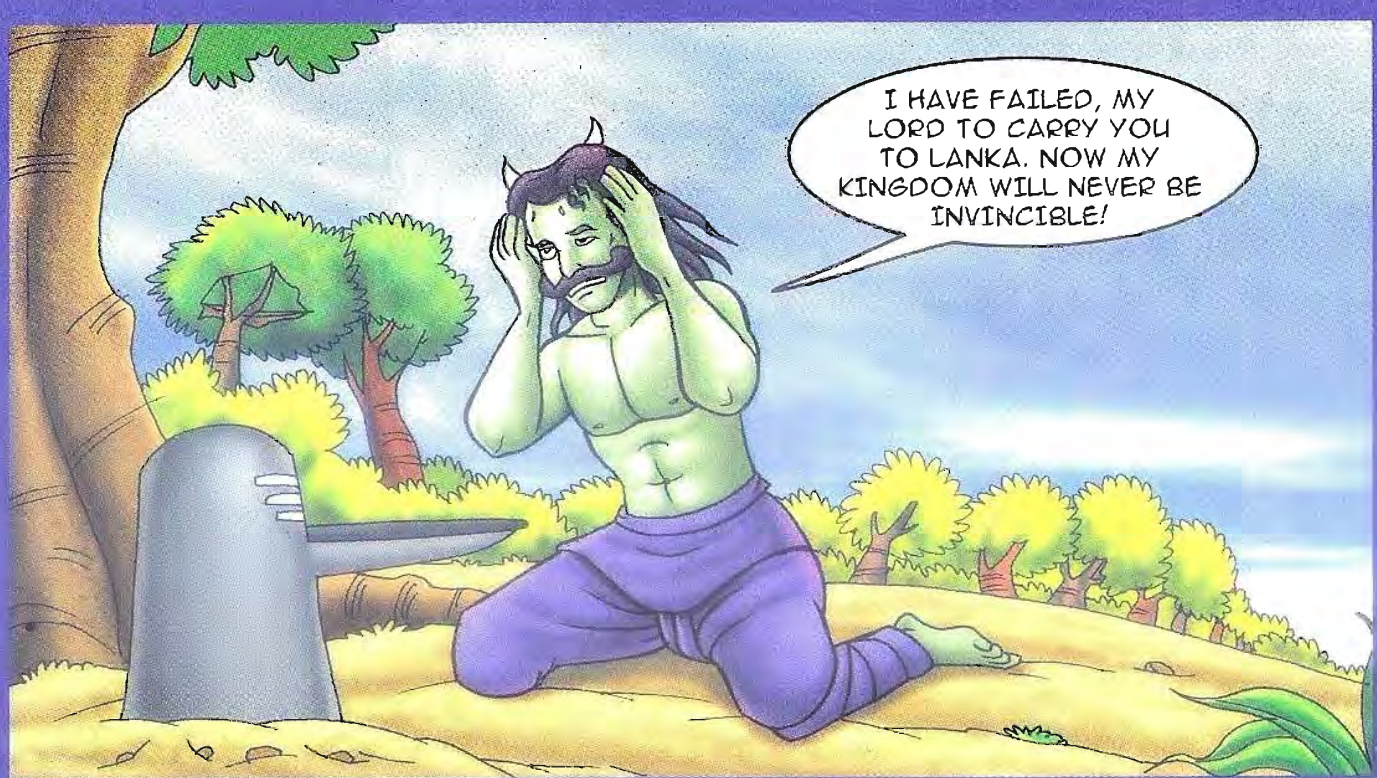
RAVANA TRIED TO MOVE THE IMAGE OF LORD SHIVA WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.



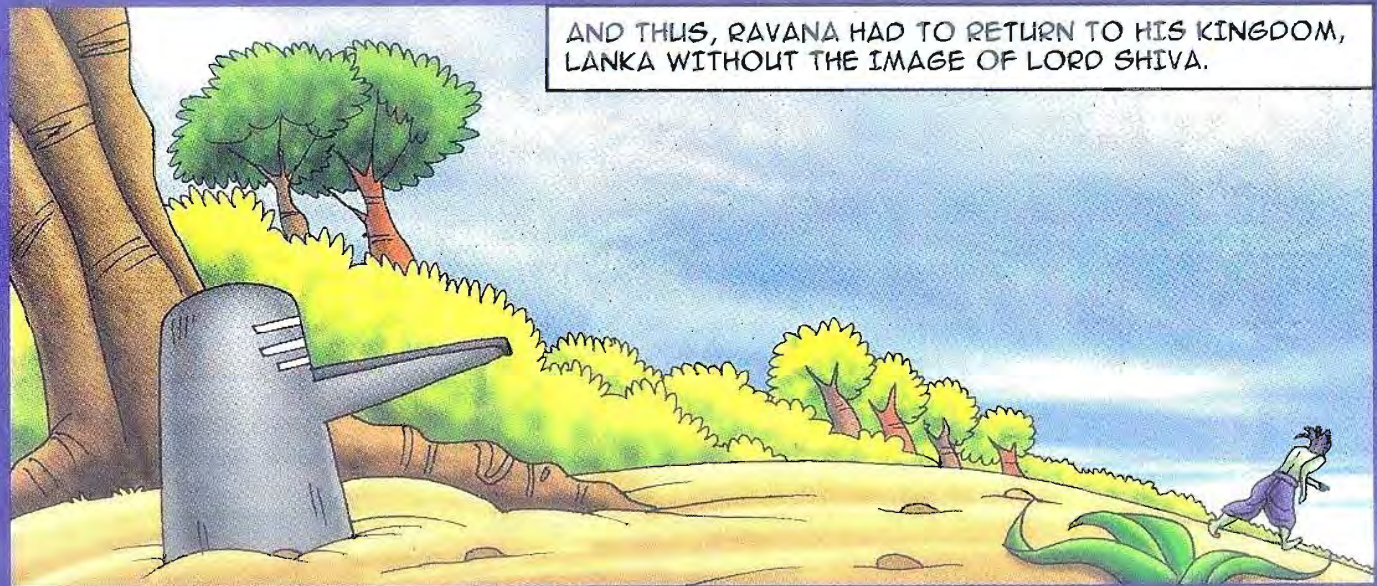
HELP ME, LORD!

BUT TO HIS UTTER DISMAY, HE COULD NOT EVEN MOVE THE IMAGE AN INCH!

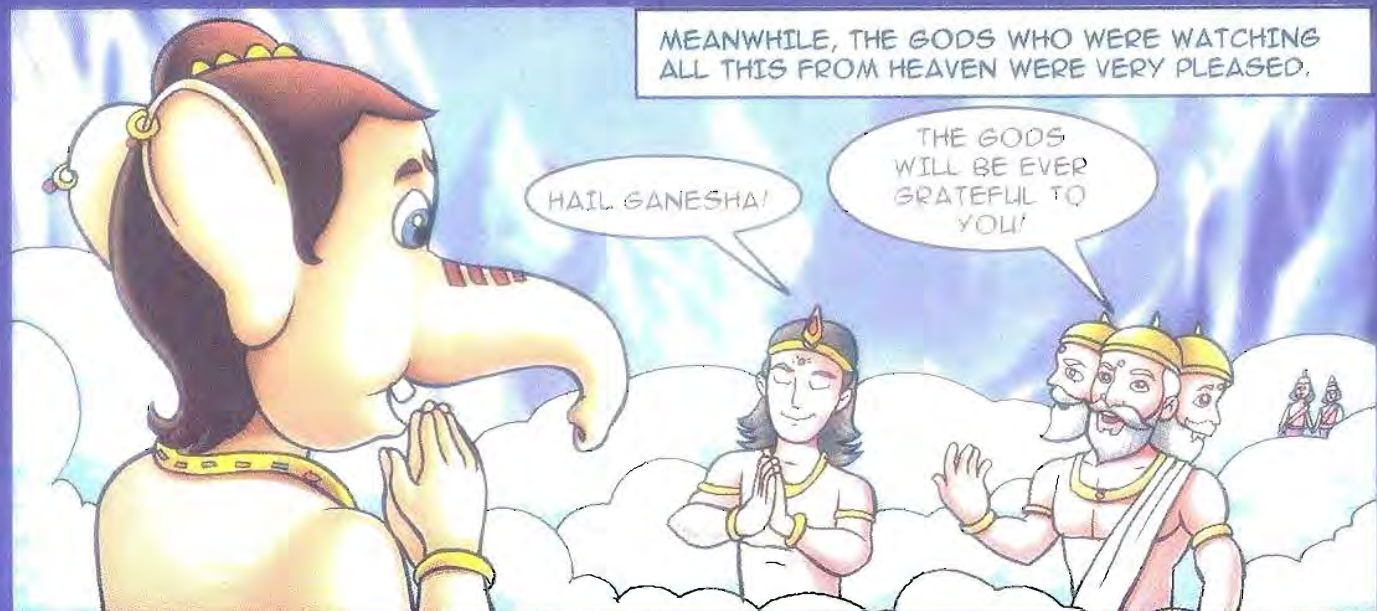




I HAVE FAILED, MY LORD TO CARRY YOU TO LANKA. NOW MY KINGDOM WILL NEVER BE INVINCIBLE!



AND THUS, RAVANA HAD TO RETURN TO HIS KINGDOM, LANKA WITHOUT THE IMAGE OF LORD SHIVA.



MEANWHILE, THE GODS WHO WERE WATCHING ALL THIS FROM HEAVEN WERE VERY PLEASED.

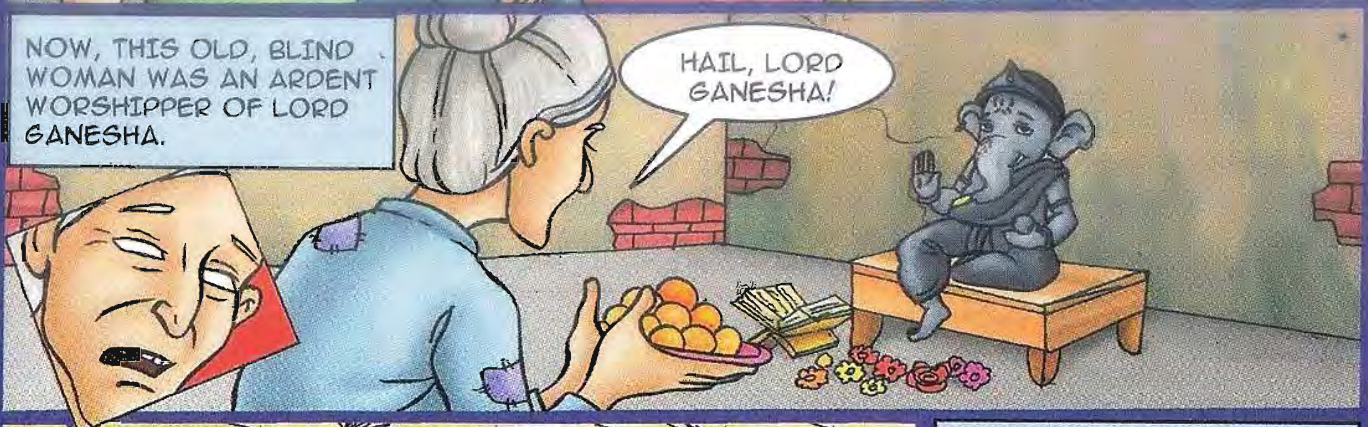
HAIL GANESHA!

THE GODS WILL BE EVER GRATEFUL TO YOU!

ONCE, THERE WAS AN OLD, BLIND WOMAN WHO LIVED IN A VILLAGE WITH HER SON AND HIS WIFE.



NOW, THIS OLD, BLIND WOMAN WAS AN ARDENT WORSHIPPER OF LORD GANESHA.



ONE DAY...

MOTHER, YOU ALWAYS PRAY TO LORD GANESHA. CAN'T HE BLESS US TO IMPROVE OUR LOT?

YES, SON. HE CAN, IF WE PRAY TO HIM.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM TO GRANT US A GOOD LIFE?

I THINK I WILL INVOKE GANESHA AND ENTREAT HIM TO IMPROVE OUR LIFE.



AND SO, ONE DAY SHE INVOKED GANESHA WITH A LOT OF DEVOTION.

LORD, PLEASE APPEAR BEFORE ME.



AFTER A LONG TIME...

OLD LADY, I
HAVE COME.

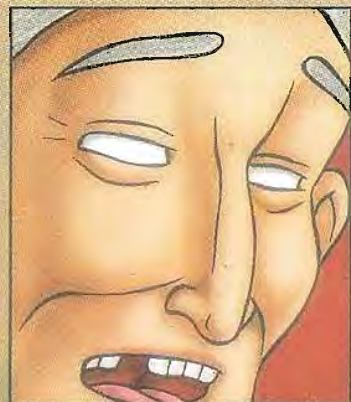
LORD, YOU HAVE
COME! PLEASE
ACCEPT MY
REGARDS.

I AM VERY HAPPY
WITH YOUR
DEDICATION. MAKE
A WISH AND IT WILL
BE GRANTED.

AT THIS, THE OLD
WOMAN WAS A
LITTLE CONFUSED.

LORD, SINCE I CANNOT
DECIDE WHAT TO ASK FOR,
MAY I CONSULT MY SON AND
TELL YOU TOMORROW?

YES, YOU
MAY.



AND SO, THE OLD WOMAN CAME BACK HOME JOYOUSLY, AND...

SON, GANESHA HAS
GRANTED ME A BOON. BUT
I THOUGHT OF CONSULTING
YOU BOTH BEFORE ASKING
FOR ANYTHING.

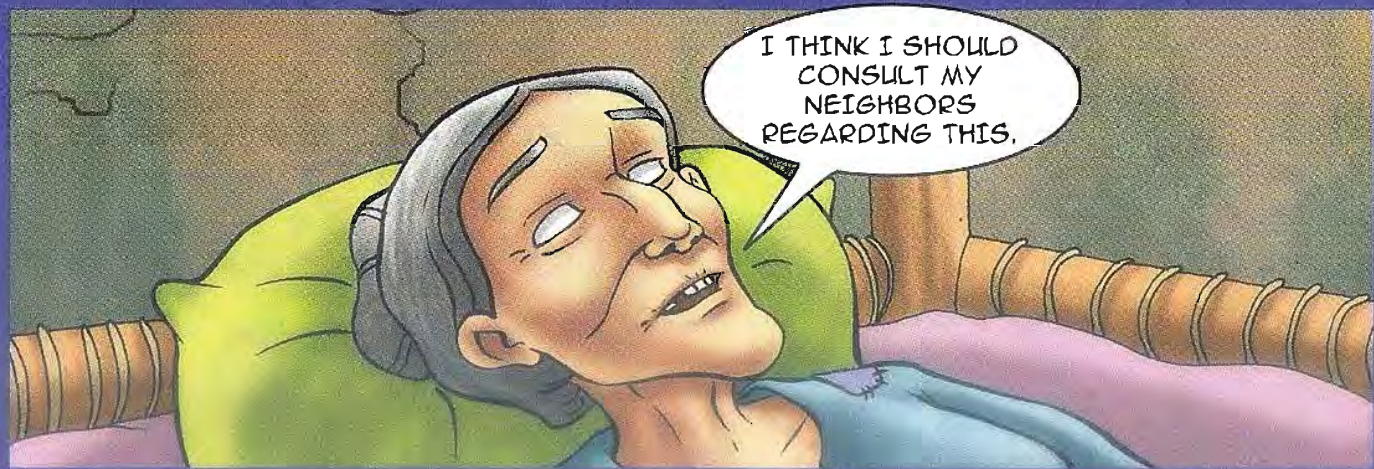
MOTHER,
ASK FOR
WEALTH.

MOTHER, I THINK
YOU SHOULD ASK
FOR A GRANDSON.

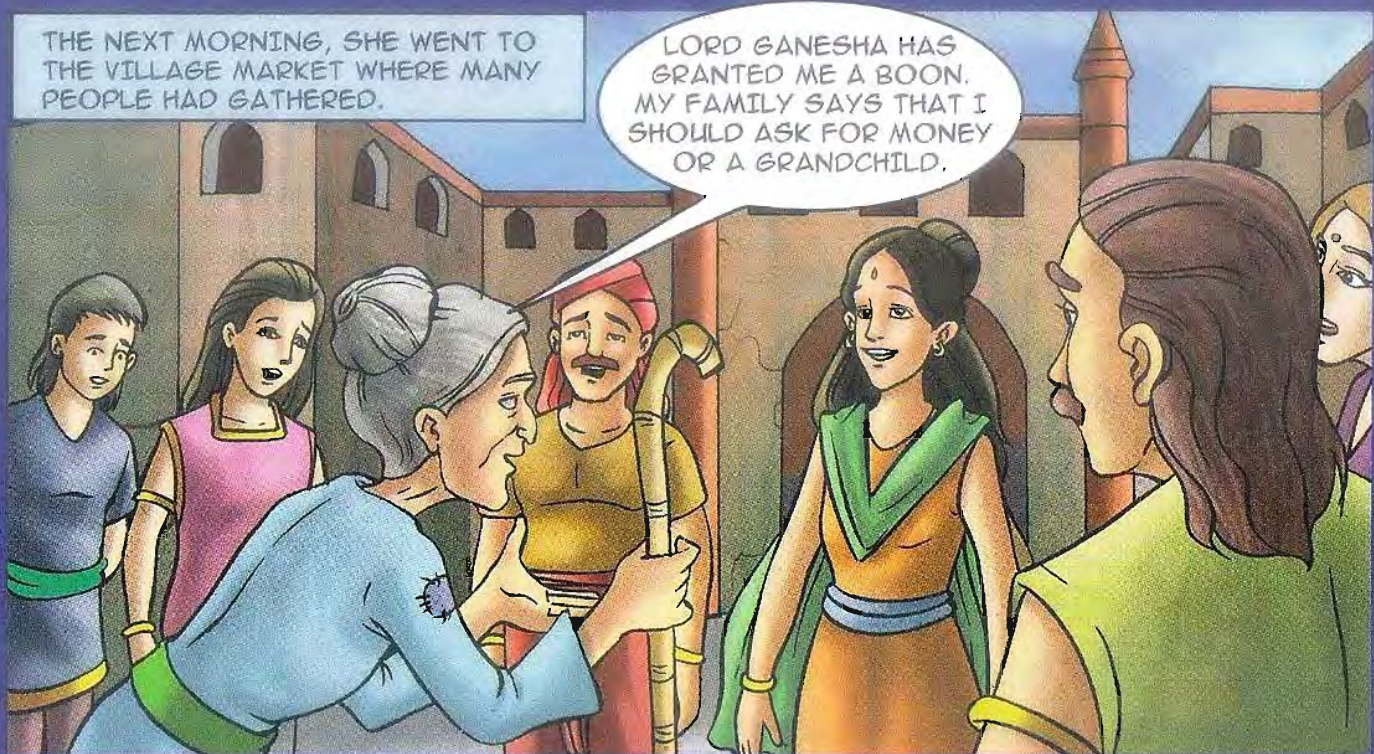
THAT NIGHT, THE OLD
WOMAN KEPT ON
THINKING WHAT WAS
REALLY NEEDED TO
LIVE A GOOD LIFE.

MY LIFE HAS NEARLY
COME TO AN END.
WHAT WILL I DO
WITH WEALTH?

MY SON AND HIS WIFE
ARE SELFISH. THEY
NEVER THINK ABOUT
MY WELL-BEING.



THE NEXT MORNING, SHE WENT TO THE VILLAGE MARKET WHERE MANY PEOPLE HAD GATHERED.




BUT, DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU SHOULD ASK SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF?






BUT WHAT SHALL I
ASK FOR MYSELF?

WHY DON'T YOU
ASK GANESHA TO
GIVE YOU VISION?




YOU HAVE JUST A LITTLE
LIFE LEFT. WHAT USE
WOULD IT BE TO YOU TO
ASK FOR WEALTH?

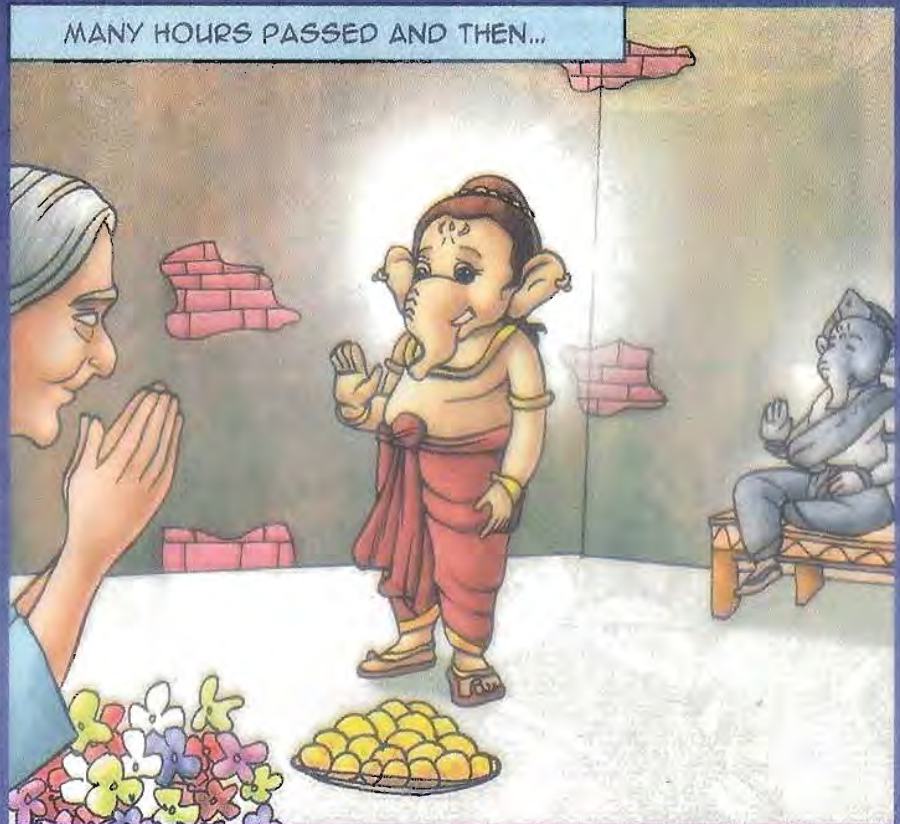
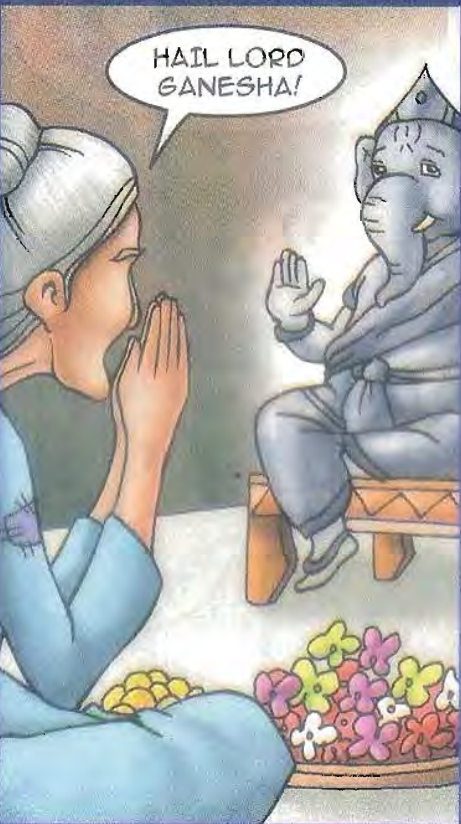
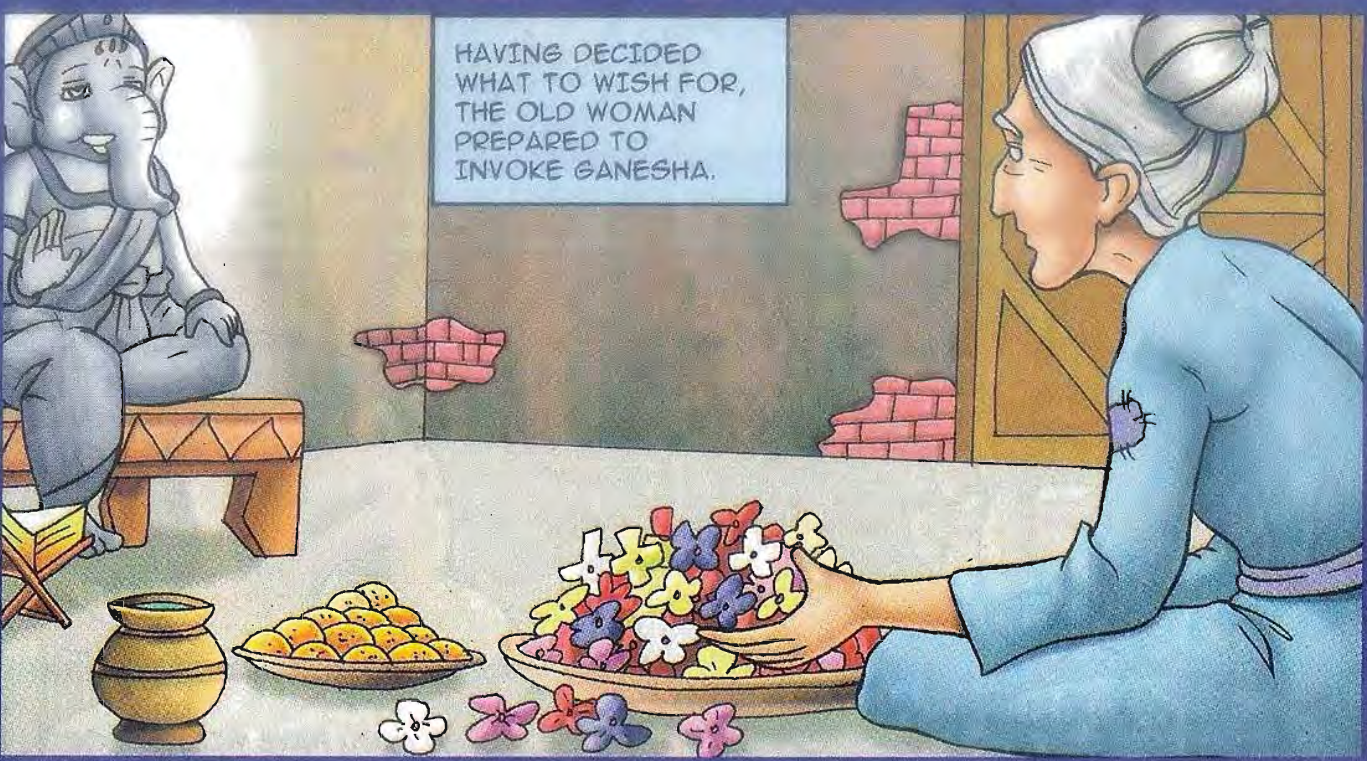
YOU SHOULD ENJOY
WHATEVER LIFE IS LEFT
TO YOU IN THE BOUNTIES
OF NATURE AND NOT
LONG FOR TRANSITORY
THINGS OF LIFE.




MY NEIGHBORS ARE
RIGHT. I SHOULD ASK
FOR MY EYESIGHT, SO
THAT I CAN SEE THIS
BEAUTIFUL WORLD.



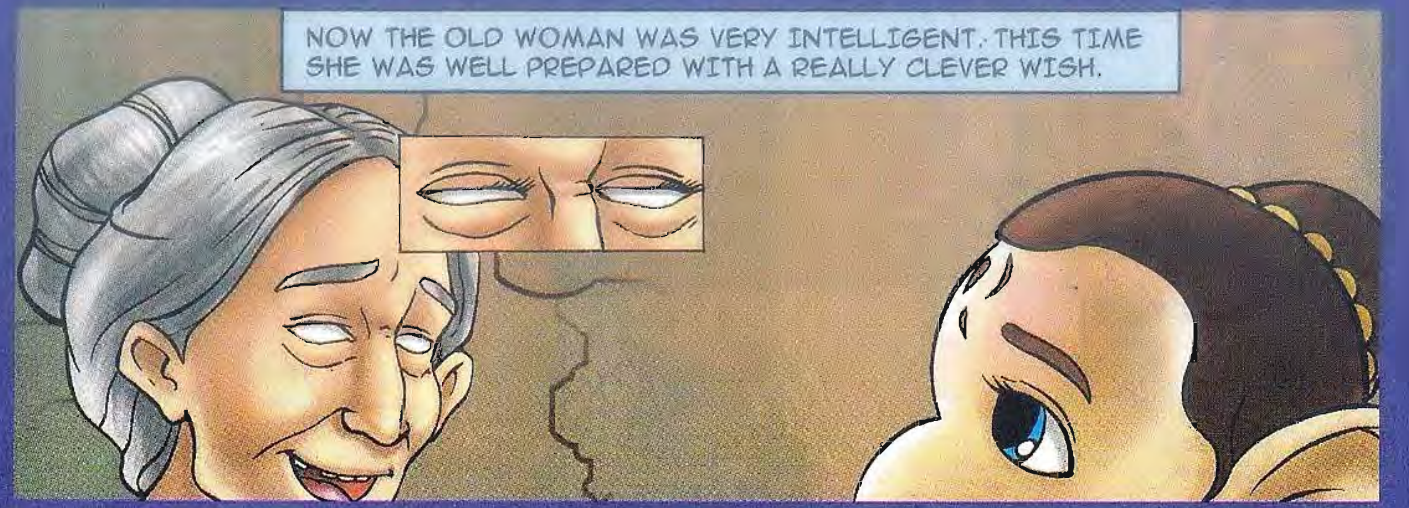
BUT HOW CAN I
IGNORE MY FAMILY'S
WISHES OF WEALTH
AND A GRANDSON!



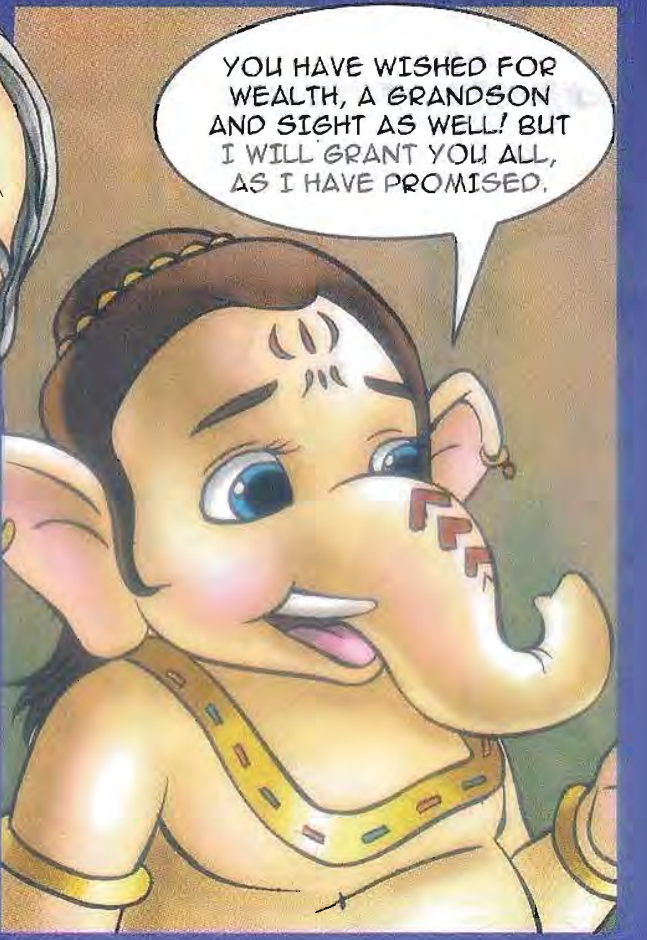
A cartoon illustration of Lord Ganesha with a large elephant head, wearing a yellow necklace and bangles. He is smiling and gesturing with his right hand towards an old woman whose back is to the viewer. The woman has grey hair in a bun.

I AM VERY PLEASED WITH YOU. HAVE YOU THOUGHT WHAT YOU WISH TO HAVE FROM ME AS A BLESSING?


NOW THE OLD WOMAN WAS VERY INTELLIGENT. THIS TIME SHE WAS WELL PREPARED WITH A REALLY CLEVER WISH.

A close-up of the old woman's face, showing her eyes closed and a slight smile. A small inset shows a close-up of her eyes. She is looking towards Ganesha, who is partially visible on the right.

YES, MY LORD. GRANT ME THAT I MAY ENJOY THE PLEASURE OF SEEING MY GRANDSON BEING FED IN A BOWL OF GOLD.

A close-up of Ganesha's face, looking down at the old woman with a thoughtful expression. He has a small red mark on his forehead.

YOU HAVE WISHED FOR WEALTH, A GRANDSON AND SIGHT AS WELL! BUT I WILL GRANT YOU ALL, AS I HAVE PROMISED.

A close-up of Ganesha's face, looking at the old woman. He is pointing with his right hand.

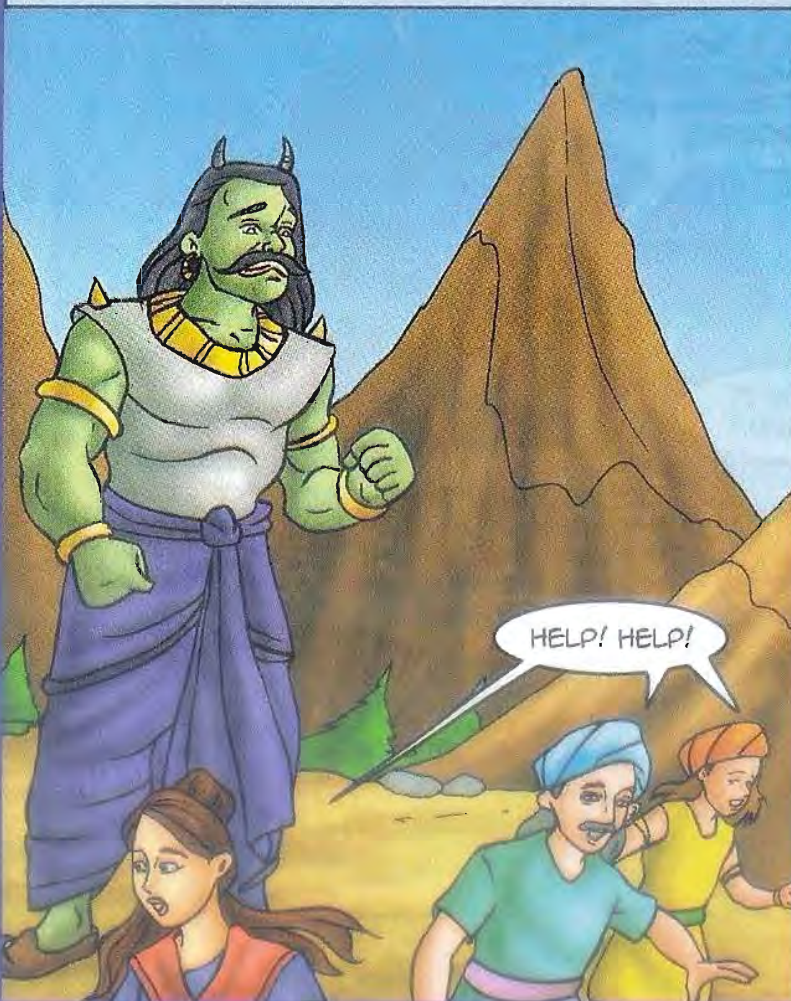
APPARENTLY THIS WISH WAS A SIMPLE ONE. BUT IN REALITY...

YOU ARE VERY INTELLIGENT. THROUGH THIS ONE WISH, YOU HAVE ASKED FOR EVERYTHING.

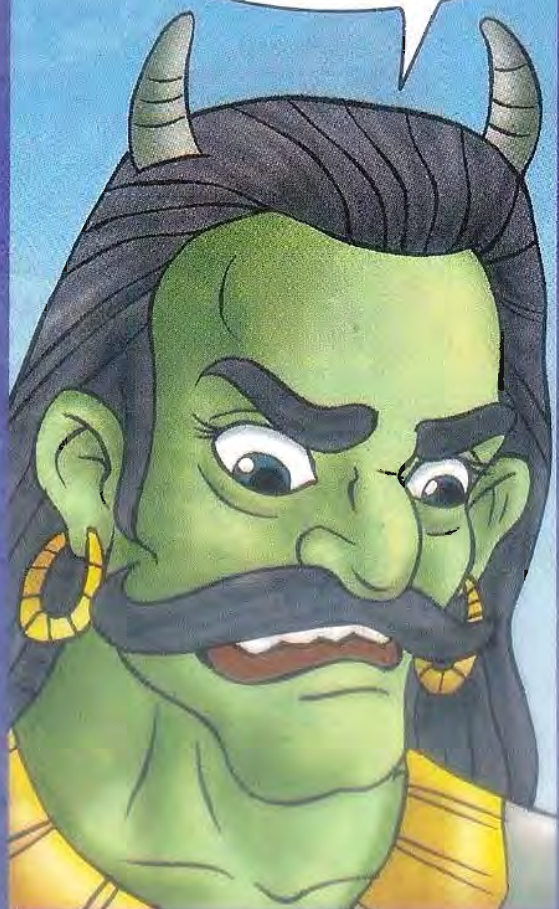
IT WAS KNOWN BY THE GODS AND MEN ALIKE, THAT WORSHIPPING LORD GANESHA BEFORE AN ACTIVITY INEVITABLY BROUGHT SUCCESS. BUT WHAT IF GANESHA WAS NOT WORSHIPPED?



IT SO HAPPENED, THAT ONCE A LARGE GROUP OF DEMONS PLUNDERED THE EASTERN PART OF INDIA.



THIS LAND BELONGS TO US! SO, LEAVE AT ONCE OR PREPARE TO DIE.



THE TREMENDOUS SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND WAS NOT UNKNOWN TO THE GODS.



WE MUST TRY TO
RESTORE PEACE
IN THIS LAND.

AND SO, THE GODS PRAYED TO LORD SHIVA.

LET US PRAY TO LORD
SHIVA. HE WILL SURELY
FIND A WAY OUT.

MEANWHILE, IN KAILASH...

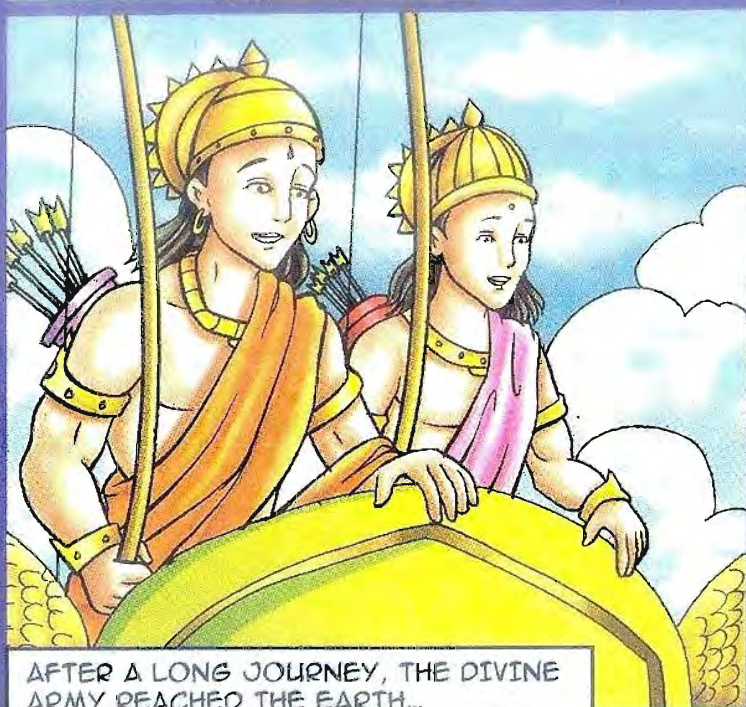
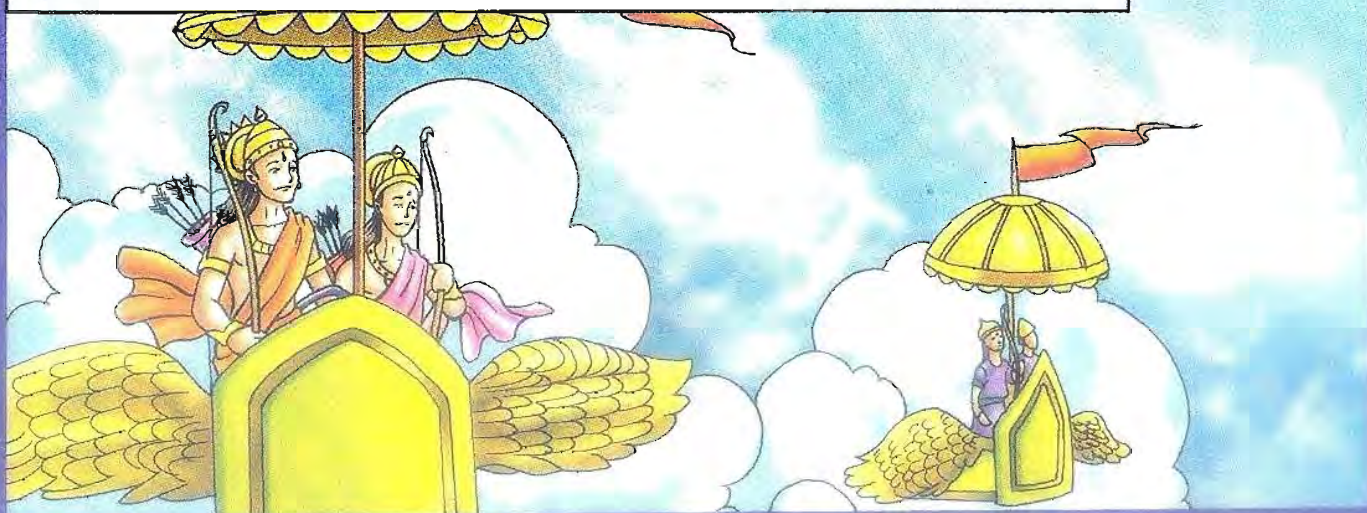
PARVATI, I THINK I
SHOULD VISIT EARTH
ONCE. MY PEOPLE ARE
IN TROUBLE.

WHAT IS IT,
MY LORD?

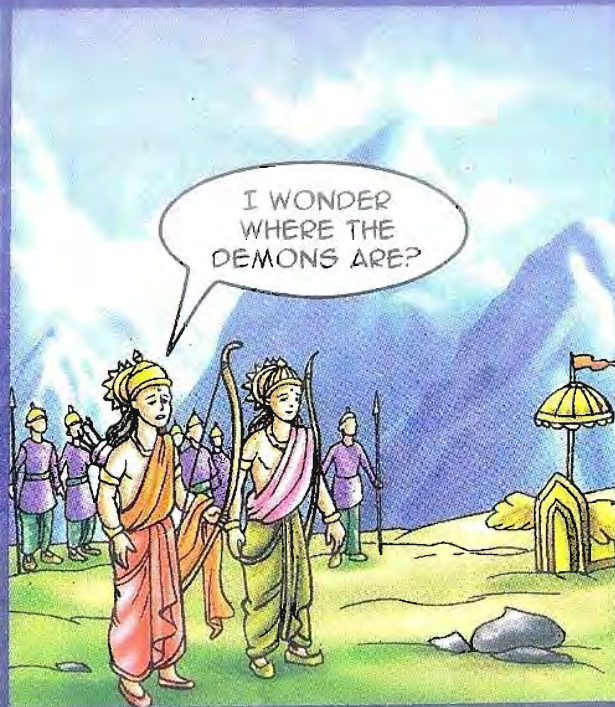
THE GODS HAVE BEEN
PRAYING TO ME FOR
GUIDANCE AS THE
PEOPLE OF EARTH ARE
IN TROUBLE.

LET ME FIRST SEND
THE ARMY OF HEAVEN
TO FIGHT THE DEMONS
WHO ARE CREATING SO
MUCH TROUBLE.

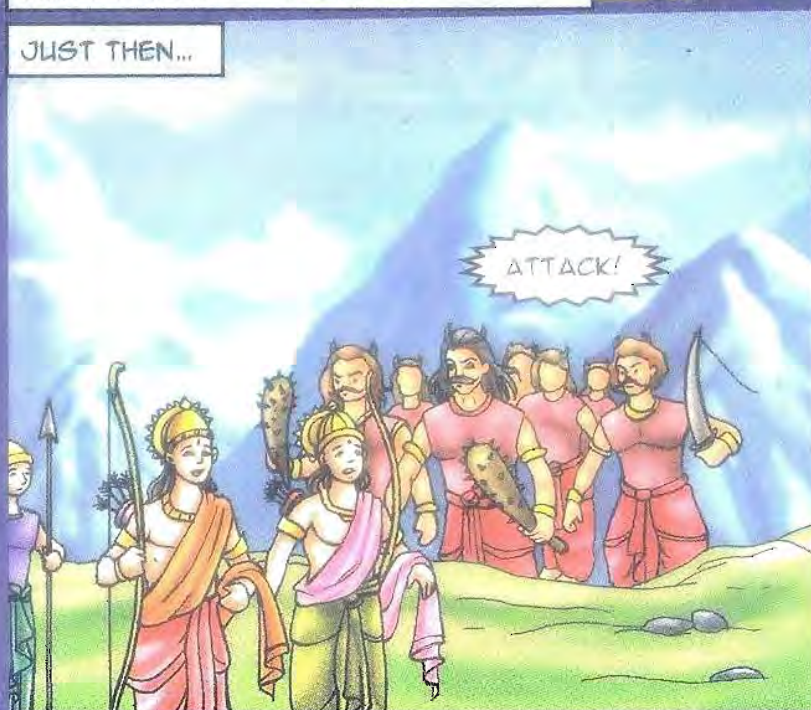
AND SO, LORD SHIVA SENT AN ARMY OF GODS TO FIGHT THESE DEMONS.



AFTER A LONG JOURNEY, THE DIVINE ARMY REACHED THE EARTH...

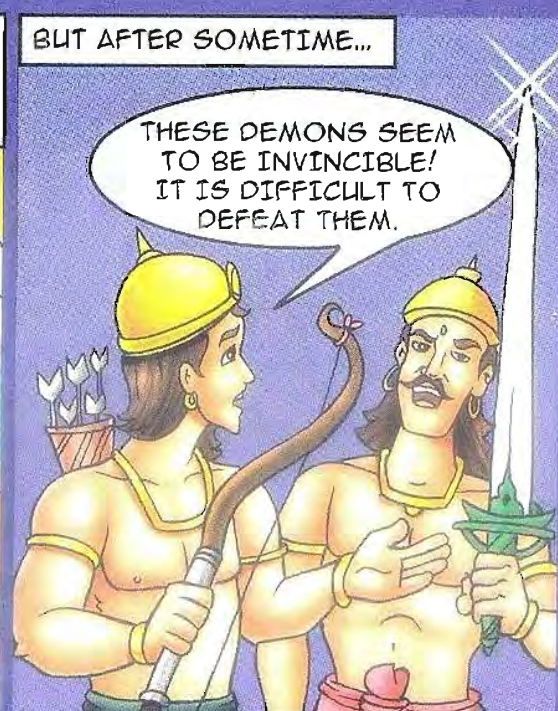


JUST THEN...



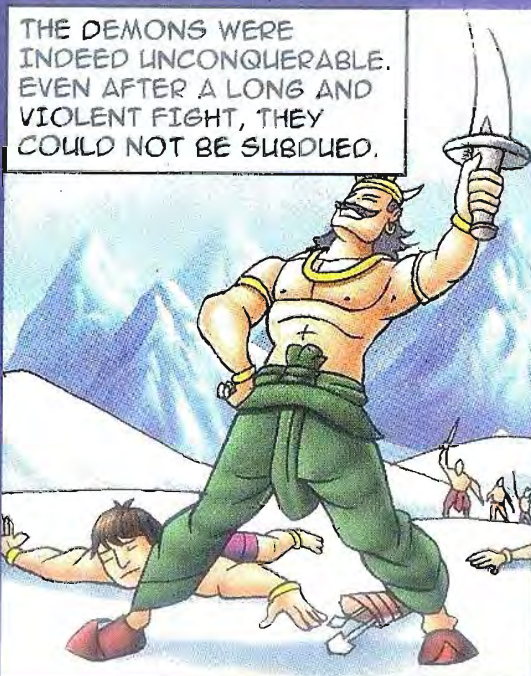


A FIERCE FIGHT
ENSUED BETWEEN
THE GODS AND
THE DEMONS.

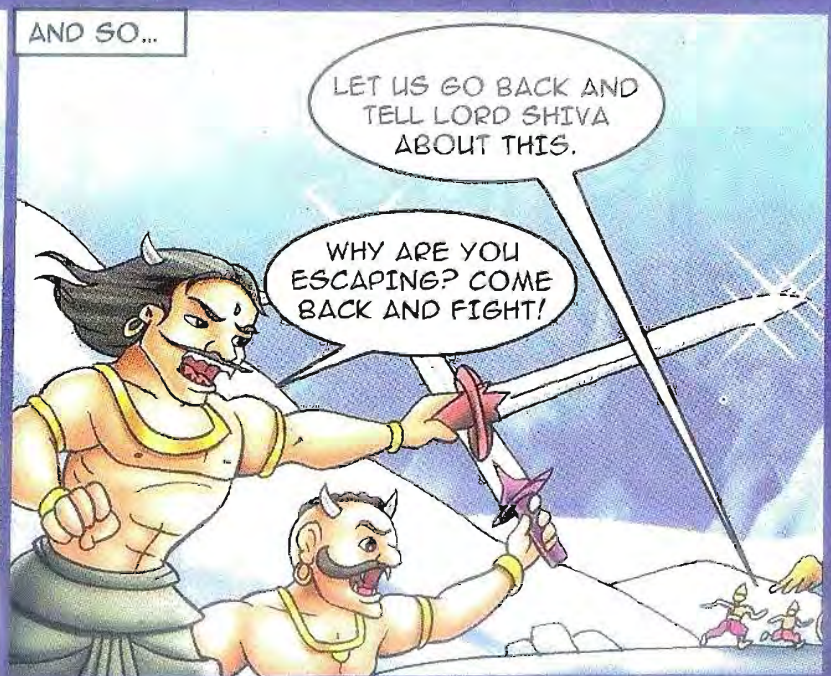


BUT AFTER SOMETIME...

THESE DEMONS SEEM
TO BE INVINCIBLE!
IT IS DIFFICULT TO
DEFEAT THEM.



THE DEMONS WERE
INDEED UNCONQUERABLE.
EVEN AFTER A LONG AND
VIOLENT FIGHT, THEY
COULD NOT BE SUBDUED.



AND SO...

LET US GO BACK AND
TELL LORD SHIVA
ABOUT THIS.

WHY ARE YOU
ESCAPING? COME
BACK AND FIGHT!

THE GODS HASTILY
TRAVELED BACK TO
HEAVEN. THEY WENT
TO MEET LORD SHIVA
AT KAILASH.



ON REACHING KAILASH...



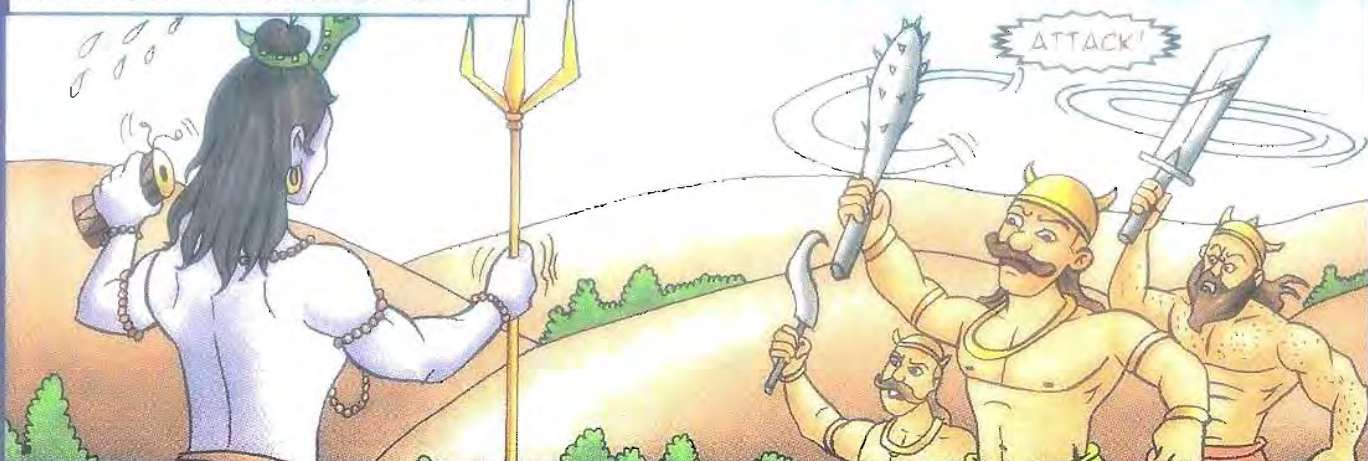
AFTER THE GODS LEFT KAILASH...



AND SO, LORD SHIVA STARTED FOR EARTH.



THE MOMENT HE REACHED EARTH...



A TERRIBLE BATTLE TOOK PLACE. MANY DEMONS DIED.

GO BACK TO YOUR OWN LAND!



IN SPITE OF BEING SUCCESSFUL IN THE WAR, LORD SHIVA HAD A STRANGE PREMONITION. THEREFORE...

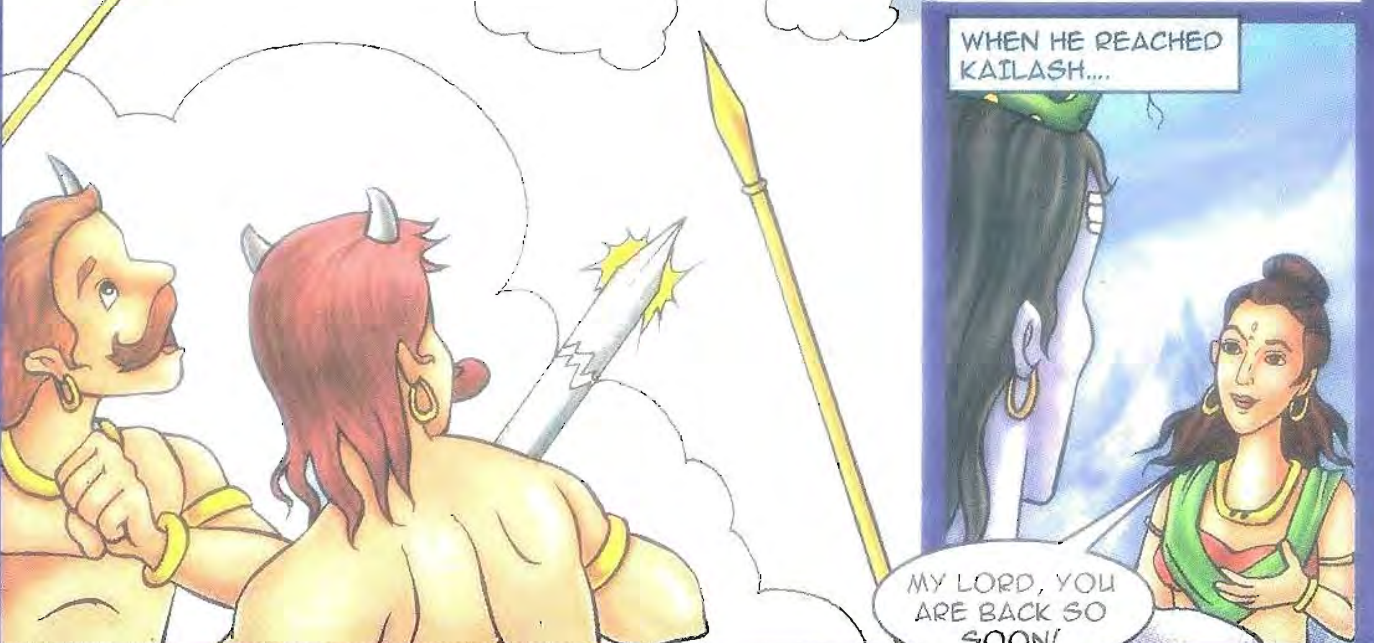
WHY DO I FEEL THAT SOMETHING MIGHT GO WRONG?



AND SO, LORD SHIVA DECIDED TO RETURN TO KAILASH.



WHEN HE REACHED KAILASH....



MY LORD, YOU ARE BACK SO SOON!



PARVATI, THERE IS SOMETHING OMINOUS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

BUT MY LORD, WHAT IS IT?

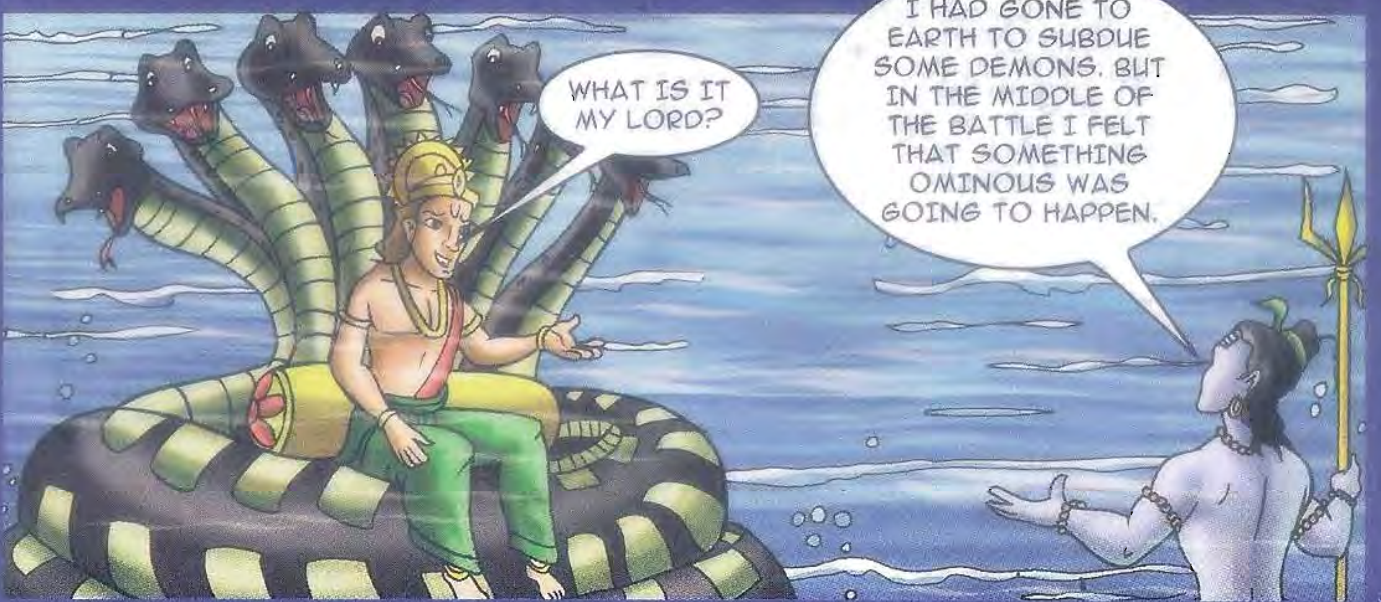
I DO NOT KNOW. PERHAPS LORD VISHNU CAN TELL THE CAUSE OF MY UNEASINESS.

SO, HE VISITED LORD VISHNU WHO WAS LYING IN HIS OCEANIC ABODE.



WELCOME LORD, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

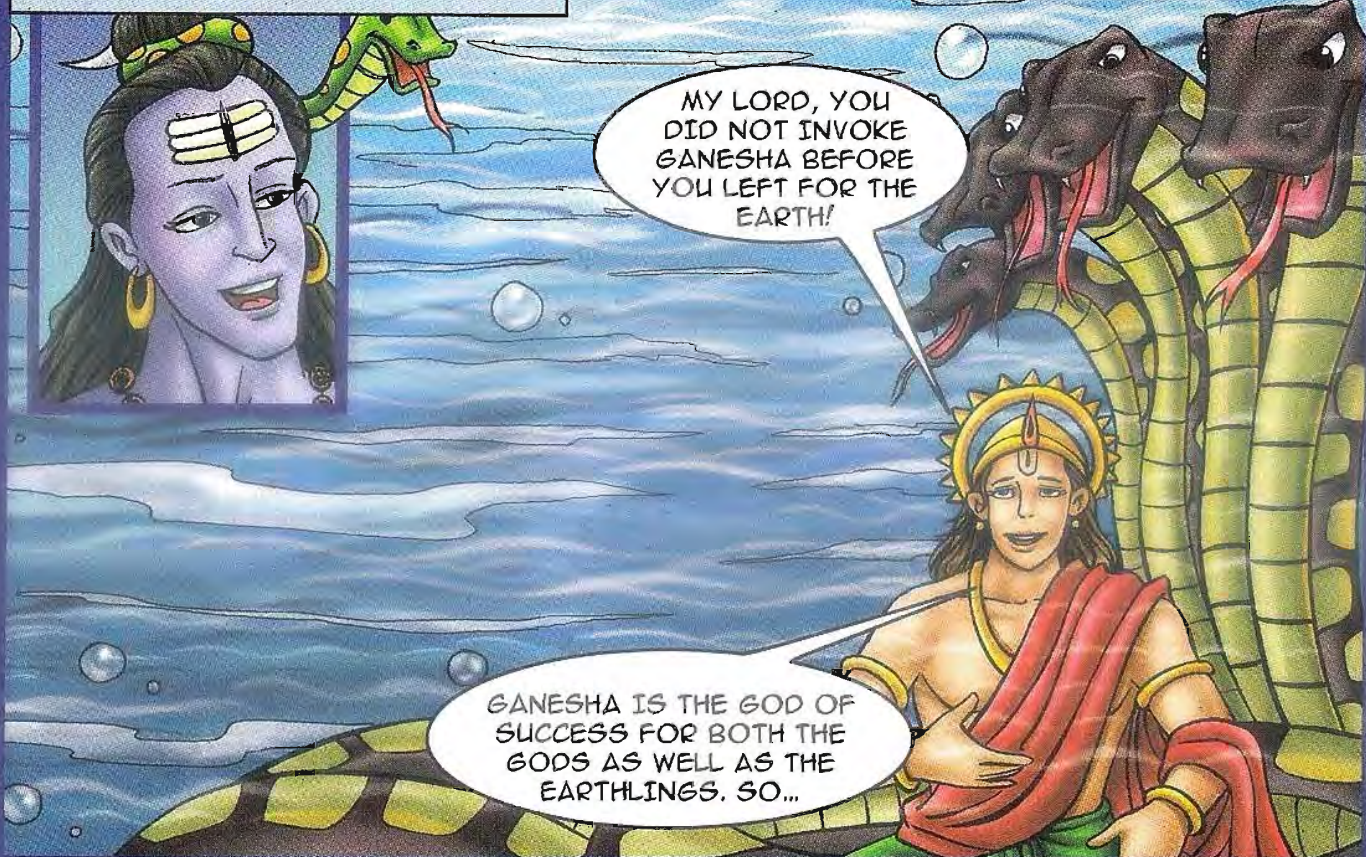
I HAVE COME TO ASK FOR A LITTLE FAVOR FROM YOU.



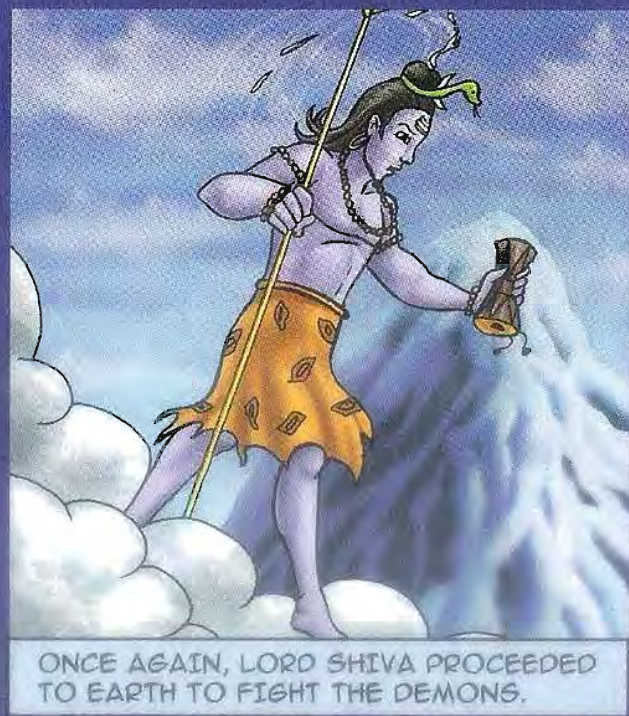
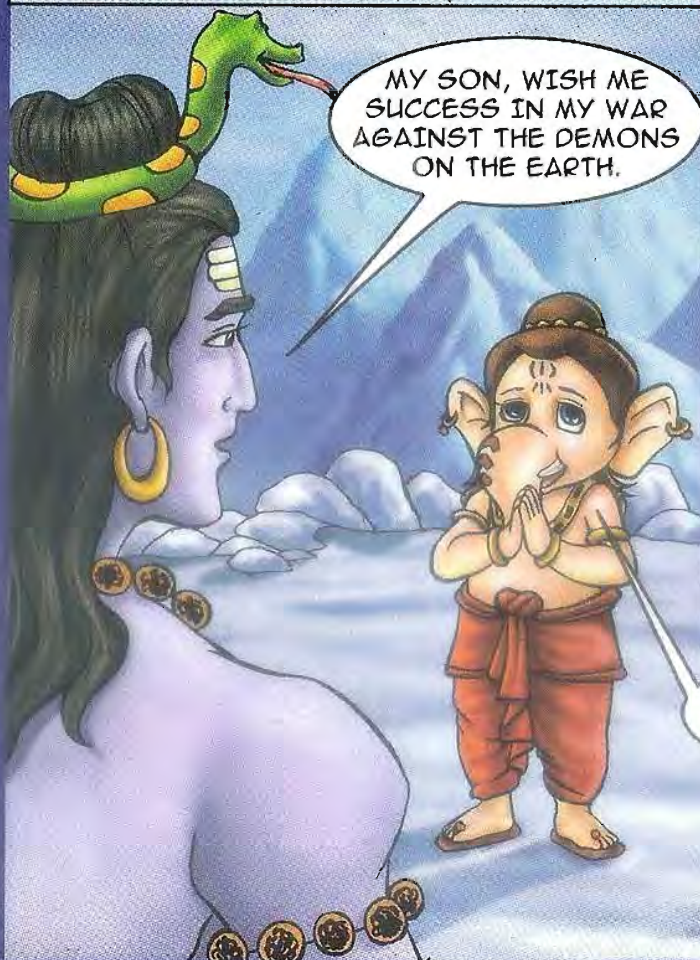
WHAT IS IT MY LORD?

I HAD GONE TO EARTH TO SUBDUDE SOME DEMONS. BUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BATTLE I FELT THAT SOMETHING OMINOUS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

AT THIS, VISHNU SMILED AND SAID...



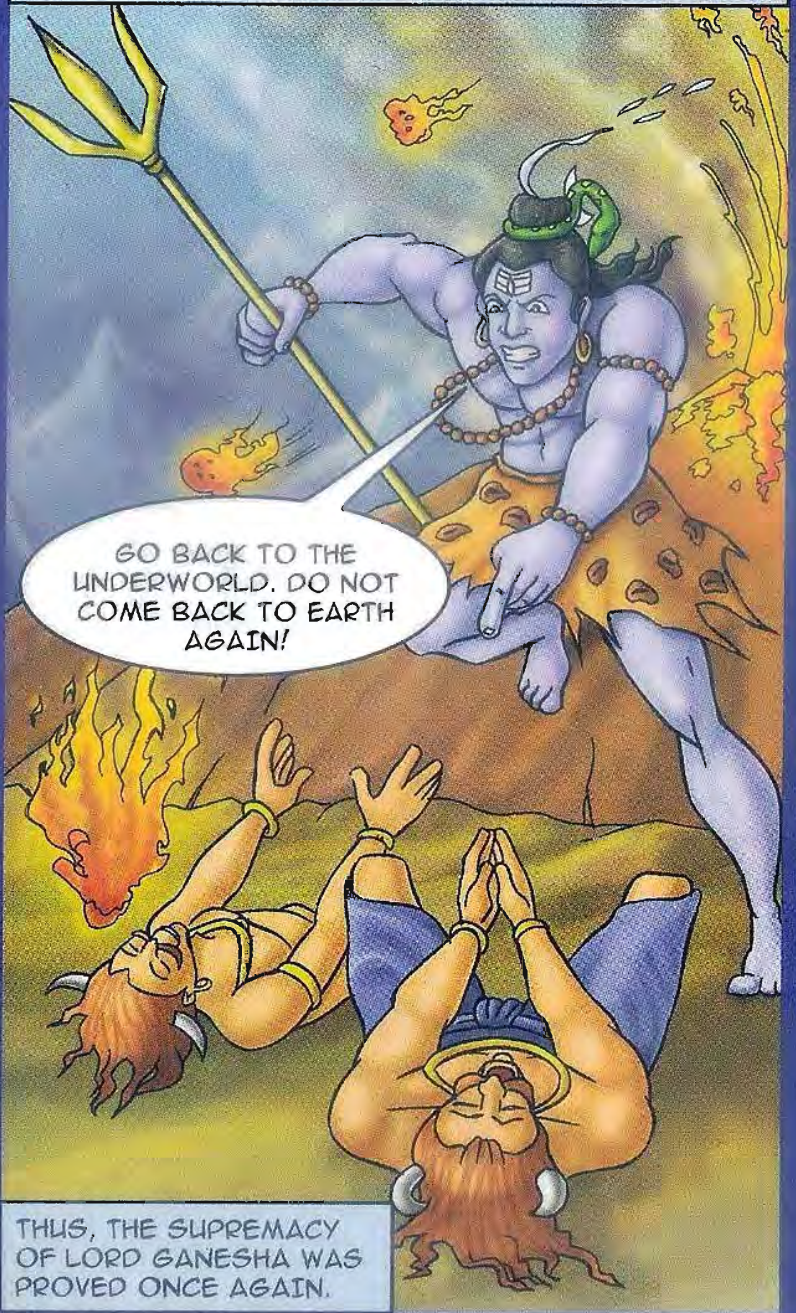
THUS, LORD SHIVA REALIZED HIS MISTAKE, AND INVOKED HIS SON, GANESHA.



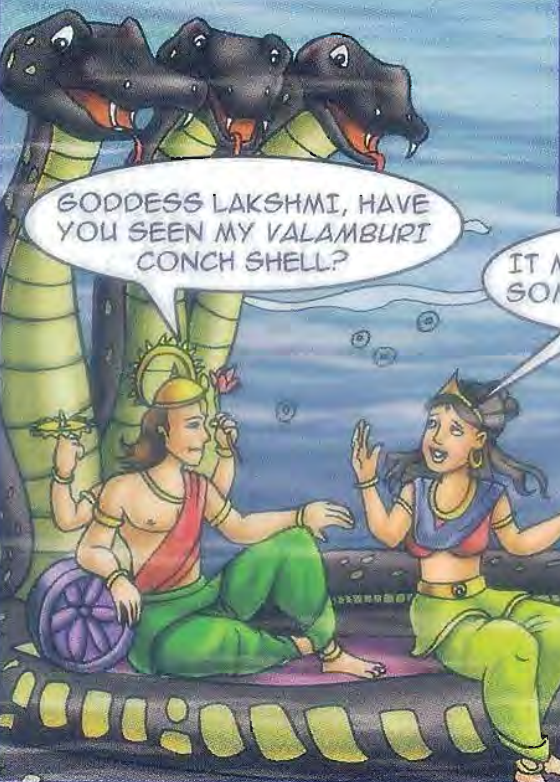
BUT THIS TIME, THE DEMONS WERE BRUTALLY DEFEATED.



AFTER A FIERCE FIGHT, THE DEMONS WERE SENT TO THE UNDERWORLD BY LORD SHIVA.



MANY DAYS PASSED AFTER THIS OCCURRENCE. ONE DAY, LORD VISHNU NOTICED THAT HIS VALAMBURI CONCH SHELL HAD DISAPPEARED!



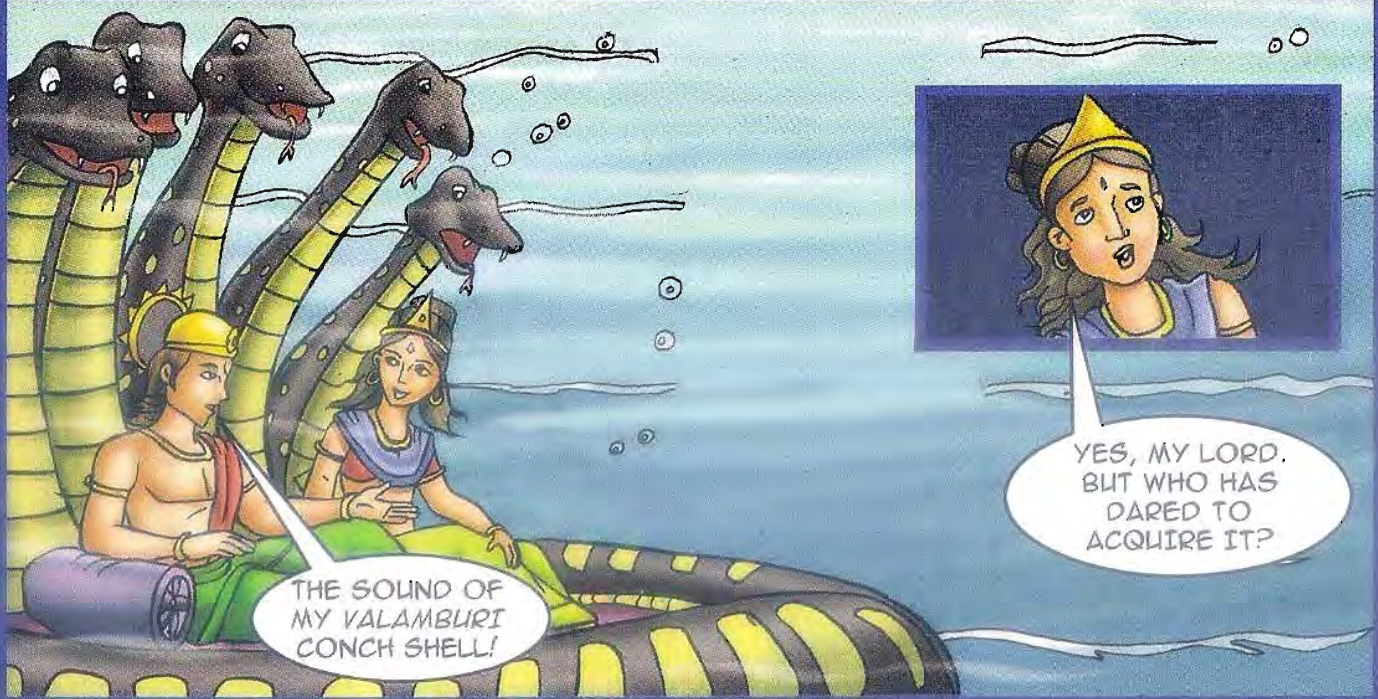
THUS, THE SUPREMACY OF LORD GANESHA WAS PROVED ONCE AGAIN.

IT MUST BE LYING SOMEWHERE HERE.

AFTER A WHILE...

LAKSHMI, DID YOU HEAR THE SOUND?





THE SOUND OF
MY VALAMBURI
CONCH SHELL!

YES, MY LORD.
BUT WHO HAS
DARED TO
ACQUIRE IT?



THAT IS THE
QUESTION WHICH
I ALSO WISH TO
KNOW.

SAYING THIS, THEY ROSE
ABOVE THE OCEAN AND...
SUDDENLY...

LAKSHMI, I THINK THE
SOUND OF THE CONCH
SHELL IS COMING
FROM KAILASH.



MY LORD, I THINK
YOU SHOULD
VISIT KAILASH
AT ONCE.

YES, WELL
SUGGESTED.

AND SO, VISHNU JOURNEYED
TOWARDS THE SNOWY
MOUNTAINS OF KAILASH.

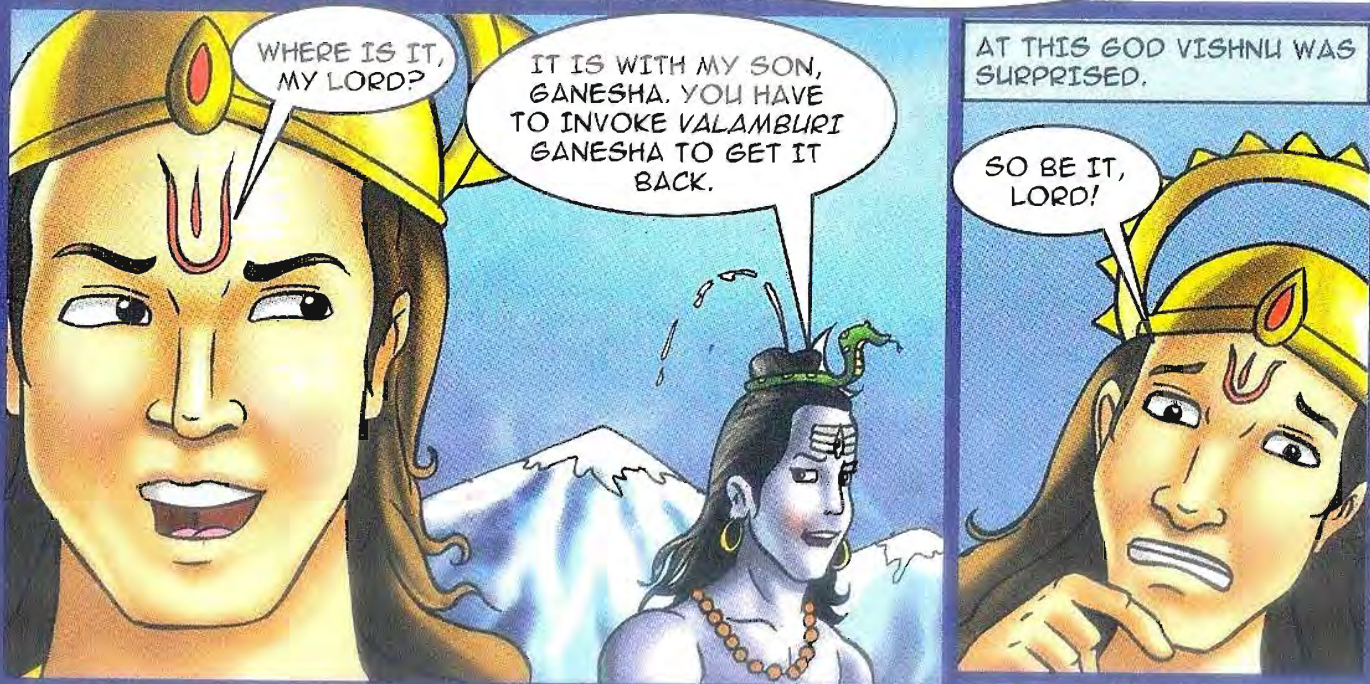
ON REACHING KAILASH...

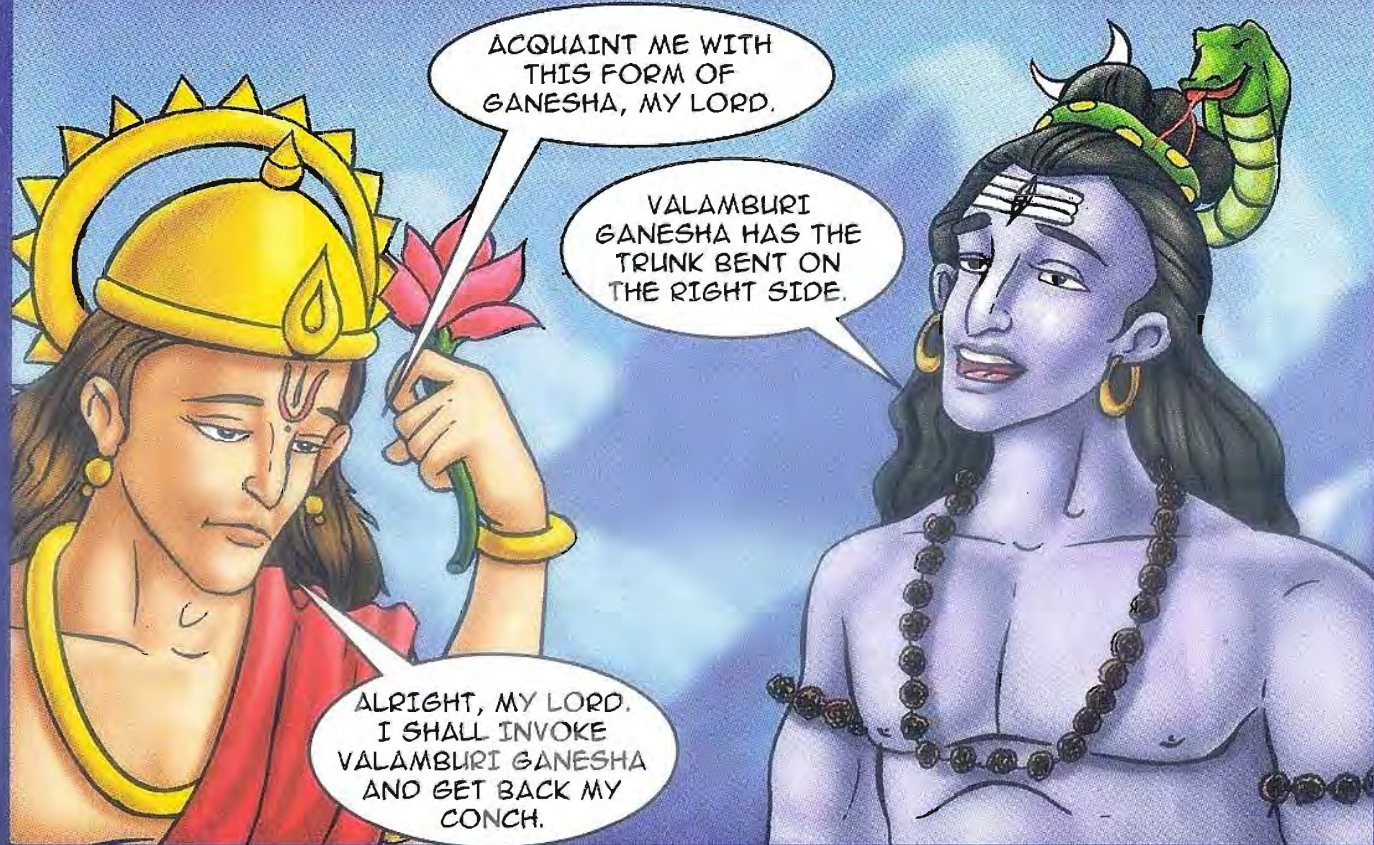
MY ADULATIONS
LORD!

LORD, I HAVE
NOTICED THAT MY
VALAMBURI CONCH
SHELL IS MISSING.

IS IT SO?

I WELCOME YOU,
LORD VISHNU, TO
KAILASH. WHAT CAN
I DO FOR YOU?





ACQUAINT ME WITH THIS FORM OF GANESHA, MY LORD.

VALAMBURI GANESHA HAS THE TRUNK BENT ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

ALRIGHT, MY LORD. I SHALL INVOKE VALAMBURI GANESHA AND GET BACK MY CONCH.

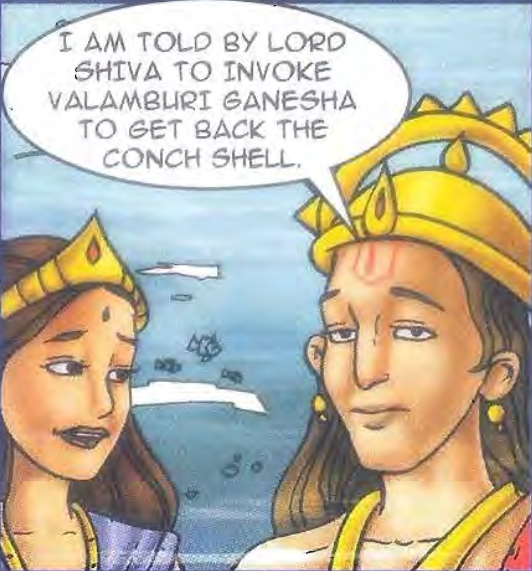
SO, HAVING FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS CONCH SHELL, VISHNU, WITH A SATISFIED MIND LEFT FOR HIS OCEANIC ABODE.



WHEN HE REACHED HIS HOME...



HOW WILL WE GET IT BACK, LORD?



I AM TOLD BY LORD SHIVA TO INVOKE VALAMBURI GANESHA TO GET BACK THE CONCH SHELL.

AS VISHNU WAS EAGER TO GET BACK HIS CONCH SHELL, HE INVOKE VALAMBURI GANESHA.



LORD VISHNU, OPEN
YOUR EYES. I HAVE
COME TO RETURN YOUR
VALAMBURI CONCH
SHELL.

YOU HAVE COME!
I AM GRATEFUL
BEYOND WORDS.



THUS, ONCE AGAIN THE
SUPREMACY OF GANESHA
WAS PROVED TO BE
INESCAPABLE.



Ganesha

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